

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES,  
PRESIDING OFFICER

FULL LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES,  
CHAIRWOMAN

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Mineola, New York

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ROSE MARIE WALKER

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CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Dunne,  
please lead us in the Pledge.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was  
recited.)

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Today we are  
honored with a number of points of personal  
privilege. I'm going to begin with -- and I'm  
hoping that all the players are here. I'm going  
to begin with the police department. Mr. Carver,  
I believe is here, to present today's top cop and  
AMT officers.

MR. CARVER: Good afternooon.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Good afternoon,  
Mr. Carver.

MR. CARVER: I'm going to try to read  
this without my glasses today.

Back in December 2014, our police  
officers and AMTs received a call for an ADA  
case. Most times that's a routine call. It  
could be for anybody that's not feeling well to  
someone that's in serious distress. On this  
particular day, we had Police Officer Mike  
Sarkowitz, AMT Matt Beslion, and AMT Ryan McCovey  
get called to a location where a woman is

pregnant and in premature labor.

Upon arrival at the scene, the woman was found to have already delivered the newborn baby. The newborn baby was blue, not breathing, had a very faint pulse. The officers and the AMTs, together, began CPR on the newborn and brought this baby to the hospital, where the baby survived and to this day is still alive and breathing. Due to the efforts of these men, that's why they are the Top Cops and AMTs of the Month.

I was just talking to *Newsday* a minute before we started here, and he said, "What separates this incident from any other incident that our police officers do on a day-in and day-out basis and the same thing with our AMTs?" I think this is just a reflection of the good work that goes unnoticed each and every single day. And I think that's why it's very important that this legislature honors the men and women of the Nassau County Police Department with an award like this every month.

We have a unique police department that not only does policing but is also in charge of

ambulance services here. I would say that both the police officers and AMTs that we have are second to none, and they do an outstanding job. But getting back to what *Newsday* said.

What separates this from any other one is that you're looking at a newborn and you sit there - and we all can reflect back in our lives and just think what if you weren't born or if you were born and did not survive? You think about this child years from now, because of these workers, these fine gentlemen behind me, will be able to hopefully go on to school, become a success in the community, marry, have children, and be a productive member of society. So I think that's what separates this action to the other routine. But everything else that our police officers do is no less heroic on a day-in and day-out basis.

Again, we thank you very much for the honor.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Well said, Mr. Carver. And I believe the Acting Commissioner is here. Would you like to say a few words?

MR. CARVER: Yes, he is. I was trying

to delay because I knew he walked out the back door for a second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: He's here.

ACTING COMMISSIONER KRUMPTER: I would like to start by thanking the legislators for honoring the police officers. This is just another example of great work by the police officers. This is about taking care of a young baby and mother. It really is a team in Nassau County; our EMTs are a part of that team. All the great that the men and women of Nassau County do on a day-in and day-out basis makes this probably the best police department in the Country. So thank you for recognizing that.

At a time when cops are condemned way too much and the great work they do is not recognzied. This body has taken it upon themselves to recognize the police work that's being done.

Congratulations to all of you, truly a great job.

It's a stressful time in a new mother's life. Everything is supposed to go right. You're supposed to deliver that baby in a



hospital. When you end up delivering that baby in an ambulance at home it's a lot more stressful.

Thank you very much. And congratulations to the honorees today.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: It's our pleasure to honor each and every one of them today. On behalf of the Legislature, I do have a citation for -- I'm not saying your last names -- for Michael, Matthew, and Ryan, I believe. Am I correct? I'm going to come down and present them to you. And if anybody else wants to join for a picture, please feel free.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I know many of you are here for other issues. Each Full Legislature day we do have a number of points of personal privilege and today is no exception. At this point in time, ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to be calling on the presidnet of the college, Nassau Community College, to make a presentation for a number of studnets who achieved high awards, namely the Chancellor's Awards. And I am going to call the roll after the points of personal privilege.

I'm going to ask Dr. Saunders to come to the mic and introduce the individuals who are being recognized today. Ladies and gentlemen, these students really come from most of our districts, and so this is an honor that we are all participating in. Dr. Saunders, please.

DR. SAUNDERS: Members of the County Legislature, with the College budget for the fiscal year 2015/16 and the collective bargaining agreement between the College and adjunct faculty before you today for your consideration. I can understand why, upon hearing about yet two more Nassau Community College items you might be tempted to say, what? Nassau Community College again? But I ask that you hold off on asking that question because today it is my proud pleasure to introduce to you many of the students who are the recipients of this year's SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence.

In order to qualify for this recognition from the Chancellor, a student must excel academically and also have a compelling record of service to the Nassau Community College and the community. I would like to thank you, Presiding

Officer Gonsalves, for setting aside busy in this busy legislative day for these students to be recognized and honored by the Legislature.

You will be pleased to know that when we told the students of your invitation, they were flattered and very enthusiastic about being here. I would also like to thank Legislature Birnbaum for helping to get the ball rolling as well. It was during my discussion with her about our upcoming budget that she suggested bringing students to the Legislature so that you would be able to see some of the dividends from your investment in the College.

But today is about these students themselves, and I would like to thank them for giving the organizers of this event such good material to work with.

And I recognize how words like dividends and investment and materials, while appropriate, don't tell the full story about these students. Most of all, it is through their hard work, their intelligence, and their passionate commitment to service to Nassau Community College and the community that these students have made all of us

2 proud, and I know that it is I these attributes  
3 that will help to pave their future pathways to  
4 success.

5 So, with that, let me ask each of them to  
6 introduce themselves. We have 13 recipients in  
7 total, some of whom will not be able to be here  
8 this afternoon because they had prior  
9 commitments. But they do appreciate,  
10 nonetheless, the recognition that you are  
11 bestowing upon them today.

12 MS. HOLLAND: Hi. My name is Crystal  
13 Holland.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Welcome.

15 MR. CONSA: Hello everybody. My name is  
16 Hugo Consa. Just very quickly, I want to thank  
17 all of you for this event today. When I heard  
18 about it, I told Legislator Birnbaum how it's the  
19 third event, total, that we've been awarded and  
20 honored at. I just find it very nice and kind of  
21 you to spend the time for us. So thank you very  
22 much.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're most  
24 welcome, Hugo.

25 MR. OTTO: How are you doing? Paul

Otto. Again, thank you very much.

MS. LEI: Hi. I'm Lisa Lei. I grew up in Nassau County, and I raised five children in Nassau County and put them ahead of me in college and now it's my turn. I'd just like to say thank you to all of you. And I'd like to say to anyone out there that it's never too late.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Great job, Lisa.

MS. BROCK: My name is Priscilla Brock. I'm a graduate of the nursing program. Nassau Community College has an amazing nursing program. I'm very proud to have completed it. I'm going on to SUNY Downstate to continue my education there.

MR. BRANCH: Hi, guys. My name is Peter Branch. I think just by looking at all of us, you can see the diversity that we present. I honestly don't think many colleges can say they have this kind of luxury that we do. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Very good, Peter.

MS. EVANS: Hi. My name is Chantel Evans. I'm actually from Jamaica, Queens. It's really been an honor and a privilege to be at Nassau Community College. Thank you.

MS. TURKEW: Hi. I'm Sara Turkew. I just graduated from Nassau Community College as a music major. I play the baritone saxophone, and I specialize in composing and playing Jazz music. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You did a good job.

Dr. Saunders. Let me say something to you, Dr. Saunders. There are many people up here who have had the opportunity to attend Nassau Community College, myself included. So we know what the College is all about, and we certainly have a great deal of love for it. Certainly, to the people today who are being recognized, you are a pleasure and it's no problem on our part to have you here to recognize the work that you've done.

Thank you. Yes, Hugo, yes, you should be proud, because we're very proud as well.

I have citations for each of them. You know what? We could also, if you want, since you come from different districts, do you want to take another group picture? One of them is from your area, Mr. Kevan Abrahams. We can come back

into the well if you would like. And then you can give the certificates out to the individuals.

I don't want anyone leave yet because some of these legislators would like to say a few words. I'll begin with Legislator Steve Rhoads.

LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you, Madam Presiding Officer. I just wanted to take just a few moments and congratulate, obviously, all of the Chancellor Award recipients today. Your accomplishments are remarkable. But I did want to mention Peter Branch, by the way.

I had the pleasure to attend, for the first time being a new legislator, the Nassau Community College commencement ceremonies a few weeks ago, at the invitation of President Saunders. I had the opportunity to meet Peter for the first time. He's quite a remarkable young man. And since we didn't have an opportunity really to talk about their individual accomplishments, I just wanted to let you know that Peter actually was the - is the valedictorian for the graduating class at Nassau Community College with a perfect 4.0 grade point average. I wanted to give him some special

recognition. Incidentally, and I know this isn't what Peter wants to do, but I can guarantee that Peter is a future politician. He probably gave one of the most inspirational commencement addresses that I have actually ever had the opportunity to hear.

So I just wanted to offer my personal congratulations to you, Peter, on your remarkable accomplishments. We're looking forward to see what you're going to do in the years to come because I'm sure it's going to be great.

Incidentally, he's also a member of the Seaford Fire Department. So I had to throw that in there too.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other legislator want to say a few words? Anyone? Legislator Walker.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: I too would like to congratulate all of the honorees. You certainly make each and every one of us proud.

Paul is in my district, from my district. Just so that you're all aware too, Paul was also the president of Nassau Community Council of Veteran's Club. Thank you so much for all you to



do to help our veterans. I know, Paul, we're going to continue to hear wonderful things about you. So congratulation, and all the honorees; faculty also, because you do a wonderful job with all of our students.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you very much, Legislator Walker.

Legislator Birnbaum.

LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: I am so happy that those of you who are here were able to join us today because it's really a privilege for us to meet you and to learn about all you have done and what you are going to achieve in your futures. I have always felt that Nassau Community College is a gem in our midst. I am so happy that we've had this opportunity to share it with everyone.

Congratulations to all of you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you to each and every one of you. And thank you to Dr. Saunders for presenting the honorees today and letting us know or keeping us informed of the great things that the College does do. You are all examples of the greatness of Nassau Community College. So we're glad we have it here in Nassau

County, and we're glad to have you as well.

Thank you very much.

We're going to move on. I think I have three more points of personal privilege. I'm sorry, I know we have a full agenda or full calendar.

Right now I'm going to call on Legislator Dennis Dunne. Would you like to talk about Melissa?

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Okay.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You are presenting her to us today.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Some years ago, we had an opening, a fair at Levittown, and this woman and her husband had approached and she was Mrs. Levittown at the time. She's vibrant. She's smart. Of course, she's attractive. She's an incredible woman.

A brief background story on her. She was called to the hospital when she was pregnant, a hospital close to us here, and the doctor said your child has got kidney problems. Your child is going to die and may kill you too, so we're going to abort your child this afternoon.

Melissa said let me call my husband. She called her husband and said get me out of here. They went to, I think it was Cornell in New York City. She has the child. He's three years old now, going to be four. She's a beautiful lady. He's going to be five. He plays soccer. Mom's kidney is okay. She does a lot for the Kidney Foundation. She made Mrs. Long Island shortly thereafter. Just recently, she made New York State, Mrs. New York State. Next month she's going to Las Vegas for Mrs. USA. So I figured we'd give her a nice sendoff and say we're proud of you, we love you, and good luck Mrs. New York, Melissa Sheehan.

We have a beautiful plaque, Melissa. Also, you're representing Nassau County, so we got a County flag for you also.

She lives now -- she doesn't live in Levittown anymore. She moved up to Bayville. And our Bayville legislator wants to say a few words.

LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Sure. I want to congratulate Melissa. Frankly, I was a friend of Melissa and also her husband. They live in

Bayville. And I had no idea that she was involved in all these other activities, including being Mrs. New York, going to the national level pageant. Of course, I wish her luck. And congratulations on all of your other successes. All of us here, as Nassau County residents, wish you well. Thank you for coming.

MS. SHEEHAN: I just want to say a few words about Nassau County, because I grew up here. Just last week, my parents celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Growing up on Long Island, they worked day and night to make sure that we had everything we wanted. Now, as a parent, I realize how hard it is to support my own children and how hard it is to live. But there is nowhere else in the United States that I would rather be than in Nassau County. It's the most amazing place for education, parenting, and, most of all, community and friendship. I don't think any place in the entire world is like our town, our county, and our state. And when I do go to Las Vegas -- and I don't know if I'm going to win or lose -- any of these women that I'm competing against, I will know one thing, there

2 is no other state I'd rather represent than New  
3 York and Nassau County.

4 Thank you to all of you for making such a  
5 wonderful place to live. I'm never going to  
6 leave. Thank you.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I just wanted to  
8 say I think, Melissa, you are not only a mother,  
9 you are a coach, you are an athlete, you are a  
10 sibling, you have a sister, you are a business  
11 owner, and you are a committee person on the  
12 National Kidney Foundation, and I think that  
13 deserves a round of applause.

14 MS. SHEEHAN: Just one more quick note.  
15 Because of the work from Dennis Dunne and the  
16 help he's done for the National Kidney  
17 Foundation, I was able to put together a  
18 fundraiser on my own, and we've raised over  
19 \$25,000 donated to the National Kidney  
20 Foundation. So, Dennis, thank you.

21 And to Don MacKenzie, from the bottom of  
22 my heart, thank you so much for working on our  
23 roads and making sure that I can take Shore Road  
24 every day. Truly appreciate it. So, thank you.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Dunne,

I believe you have another point of personal privilege.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Yes, I do. Thank you, Madam Chair.

I too attended Nassau Community College, graduated 1975. They were ranked number one academically in the nation. Even though I was there, they were still ranked number one. I don't understand that. Anyway. What a great school.

One of the pride and joys we have at Nassau Community College is our wrestling team. Our wrestling team, under the tutelage of my next recipient, they won seven national championships. He also coached 103 NCAA champions. He's just an incredible coach, from Wantagh. He went to Mempham High School. Paul Schmidt, would you come up?

Paul was a fireman in New York City. When he retired, he came to Nassau. We're very lucky we got him at Nassau Community College. He's been married for 37 years to Marianne. He has three children, Dora, Colleen, and Paula, and four grandchildren. He also coached Chris

Wideman, the MMA UFC National World Champion.

That was one of his guys. He was an All American twice under this coach. I'll tell you, we're so very, very proud of him.

He has coached all academic teams. He was also Coach of the Year. Just this year, he was appointed to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. Just this past weekend they inducted him into the National Hall of Fame in Oklahoma.

We've got a jewel right in front of us, ladies and gentlemen. He's from Wantagh; that means he's Steve's guy. But he was mine for so many years. I'm just so proud of him.

Nassau Community College has had some great football teams, of course, but our wrestling team is right there with them, baby, and we'll never forget them. At graduation we mentioned football and we didn't mention wrestling, but we will in the future. Wrestling will never be overlooked.

I thank you so much for all you've done for all these wonderful kids that couldn't get right into the four year school. You took them, taught them, and got them tutored and helped them

so they can provide a beautiful - the only one that we can see nationally is Chris Wiedman from Baldwin. We've had so many success stories. God bless you. Thank you so much for what you do.

As a fireman, you help people. Now, as a wrestler and coach at Nassau Community College, you put us on the map. Seven national champions. 103 All Americans. God bless you. Paulie, you're the best.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you, Dennis.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: I have a beautiful plaque for you. I also have a Nassau County flag, because all of Nassau County, we're proud of you.

What we're going to do now, we're going to come down and do a horseshoe around you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Does Paul have something to say?

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Yeah. Let's hear from Paul.

MR. SCHMIDT: I appreciate every little kind word, Dennis. You've always been in our corner. You've been a fan of wrestling, and we all appreciate that in Nassau County.



I'm very lucky to be the coach at Nassau Community College. And the support that the Nassau County Legislature gives to the County and the College, you can see the type of students that we do get here today, that were honored earlier on. I'm very, very fortunate. I'm very humbled by the experience that I have gotten out of Nassau Community College. I also was a past alumni of the College myself. So coming back here, being in front of everybody here, I recognize all the names. It's the first time I've ever seen you in person, except for maybe Legislator Rose, who knocked on my door one day. Besides that, I really appreciate it.

Thank you so much. And thank you to President Saunders. He's been very, very supportive of all the programs at the College, and he is a great leader. I appreciate everything he has done for me and the College. Thank you so much.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We have another point of personal privilege. Sorry. But each and every one of them deserves full attention. Sorry, but that's the way it goes.

In all due respect, I know that it's been a long period of points of personal privilege. As I said earlier, there are so many worthy people deserving of recognition. The last one is not the least of them all, but certainly someone who deserves the recognition as much of all the honorees today. Without any further ado, I would like to turn it over to Legislator Judy Jacobs, who will present the point of privilege.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Thank you. And I'm sure you will all agree that this was worth waiting for. I have a story to tell you. Let me start with a quote.

Heroes are ordinary people who make themselves extraordinary at times in their lives. I'm going to let him tell you the story from beginning to end. But I'm going to tell you a headline that appeared, which said, "He Ran Through the Wrong Crowd: Local Hero Recounts Thwarting Woodbury Robber." I don't know if you remember reading about this, when an alleged thief snatched two pocketbooks in Woodbury from two women eating and had their pocketbooks near them. He probably expected a smooth getaway as

he started to run. But he had no idea that he was going to meet someone by the name of Michael Ventrice. But we know now and now I want all of you to know.

Michael, I'd like you to come up to the podium. And before I even come down to give you the award, I just want you to explain to everybody what that day must have been like. I live in Woodbury. I know Woodbury is fairly quiet, usually. It's a sort of normal place.

MR. VENTRICE: Yeah. So, I was coming back from the gym. I don't know if you guys are familiar with the area, but Butera's Restaurant, right by the Jericho Turnpike Road, and two women were eating lunch and some guy came up and stole both their purses and ran to a car. I was coming back from the gym at Syosset High School and I saw a car, looking like it was a hit and run, trying to run away. So the car pulled up on the curb, half on the curb, half in the street, and I see a woman walking a dog. I asked what's going on over here, ma'am. She says I think a woman's purse is getting stolen. So I pull the car over. I run over to the car. I see

this guy in an Escalade truck has the purse in his hand, and I see him on the center console, kicking out towards the passenger side door. So I come up on the driver's side door. The woman is like someone do something. So I open the door, punched him in the side of the head, punched him in the side of the head, put him in a headlock and pinned him to the backseat of the car, for like ten minutes. I had him good in a headlock, until the cops came. And, you know, they got the purses back. The women, they were all shook up, shaking, and I just comforted them. And now I'm here.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: And he's being very modest. He's saying purse. He stole the two purses and then ran towards Southwoods Road, which is a pretty major north-south artery, and obviously stopped a car to carjack it and the woman wouldn't get out. There was a whole ruckus. But nobody was doing anything, right? And how do you think I found out? And it wasn't from a headline in the paper.

MR. VENTRICELLI: When I got there, there were just a bunch of, you know, grown men,

no offense guys, they were just standing watching. I just went in there. I didn't think twice; I probably should have, I don't know. I got in there, pinned him down. He was not going anywhere. I'm looking -- I had this guy in a chokehold in the backseat of the car, my feet are on the windshield, and I'm just pressing down and everyone is just staring at me looking. I'm like, someone grab his hands. But, whatever. It got done. And I saved the day, I guess.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: But you do know who told me? I want you to know the Inspector of the Second Precinct called me to tell me about you, because they were blown away by what you did.

I know your parents are here, who I'm sure, like we were all laughing before -- and your sister is here. I looked at him and I said I don't know whether to congratulate you or yell at you for taking such a chance like that. But I could tell you, it blew me away. The police department, they couldn't believe it. By the time they got there, you had him. That was really pretty great.

I'm going to come down and give this to

2 you. I think I'm going to have you come up. We  
3 honored a lot of heroes. I'd like your parents  
4 to stand and your sister.

5 I'm going to come down and take a picture  
6 with your family and then you'll all come up.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislators,  
8 please take your seats because it's roll time.

9 Mr. Kiernan, are you going to call the  
10 roll, please? And then we'll go into public  
11 comment.

12 MR. KIERNAN: Deputy Presiding Officer  
13 Nicolello?

14 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.

15 MR. KIERNAN: Alternate Deputy Presiding  
16 Officer Kopel?

17 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

18 MR. KIERNAN: Legislator Bynoe?

19 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

20 MR. KIERNAN: Legislator Solages?

21 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

22 MR. KIERNAN: Legislator Ford?

23 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

24 MR. KIERNAN: Legislator Curran?

25 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Here.

MR. KIERNAN: Legislator Becker?

LEGISLATOR BECKER: Present.

MR. KIERNAN: Legislator Muscarella?

LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

MR. KIERNAN: Legislator Birnbaum?

LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Here.

MR. KIERNAN: Legislator DeRiggi-

Whitton?

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Here.

MR. KIERNAN: Legislator Kennedy?

(No verbal response.)

MR. KIERNAN: Legislator Schaefer?

LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

MR. KIERNAN: Legislator Dunne?

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So pleased to be

here with Fran Becker alive.

MR. KIERNAN: Legislator Jacobs?

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Here.

MR. KIERNAN: Legislator Walker?

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

MR. KIERNAN: Legislator MacKenzie?

LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Here.

MR. KIERNAN: Legislator Rhoads?

LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Here.

MR. KIERNAN: Minority Leader Abrahams?

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

MR. KIERNAN: Presiding Officer  
Gonsalves?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Present.

MR. KIERNAN: We have a quorum.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: First of all, I  
thank each and every one of you for your  
indulgence. But you can see how important these  
points of personal privilege are to each and  
every one of us.

Before we get to public comment, which is  
30 minutes, you need to know that we do stay here  
at the end of the session to hear any additional  
comments that were not able to be heard.

I ask that during this session, which is  
a public comment session, for the speakers to  
adhere to the three minute rule, and also to  
understand that we want to hear your concerns.  
It's not a question and answer period. It's not  
a debate period. If you have any questions, you  
can put them in writing and give them to the  
clerk, and it's extremely important that you do  
that.



We have been successful with the questions being asked and given to the clerk, and I know that they have been answered. We will continue to do that, please, so that we can get as many in in the 30 minutes before we have to continue with the calendar.

I'm going to announce at this particular time that the item on the land bank is not being called today. However, there are some of you who are here to speak on the land bank. So you will be able to do that during public participation or public comment.

Any other item that's on the calendar will be heard, your comments will be heard with those items come before us.

Without any further ado, I do have people here who wanted to talk about the land bank. Mary-Ellen Kreye, is that correct?

MR. KIERNAN: Legislator Kennedy is here.

MS. KREYE: Good afternoon.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Good afternoon, Mary-Ellen.

MS. KREYE: Thank you for this

opportunity to inform you about the Uniondale Community Land Trust. We have worked for four years to develop and incorporate UCLT as an IRS 501(c)(3) not-for-profit in response to a huge number of foreclosed homes in our community. I'm pleased that you tabled this legislation so you can consider including important concerns.

First of all, it is necessary to safeguard affordable housing to avoid windfall profits for the residents of the land banked property.

Secondly, a broadly based board is absolutely essential with guaranteed seats for several community-based members.

Thirdly, the Community Land Trust model ensures the first two priorities, so I urge you to use this in re-crafting the legislation.

I'm very supportive of the land bank. And I thank you for this opportunity.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you very much.

Joseph Delando, is it, I believe. No? Is that correct?

MR. ORLANDO: Good afternoon.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Good afternoon, Joseph.

MR. DELANDO: Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Joseph Delando. I am the newly hired project coordinator for the Uniondale Community Land Trust. Also, I can say that we are pleased that the legislation was tabled. We would like an opportunity to work with you to make certain corrections and additions to the bill as it was previously presented.

We'd like to refer to a June 8 letter that was sent to the county executive from some of the legislators.

Our interests and our concerns are that the community is hardest hit by the crisis of houses that are so-called zombie houses, houses in foreclosure. Those communities hardest hit should have representation on the Land Bank Board. Also, that we follow closely the legal priorities so that houses which are purchased are used for affordable housing and even to modify that even more, provided to the community land bank so that we can help preserve those houses

and rehab them.

We recognize that the legislation is not for either a portion of the county and not another portion, but rather is for the entire county. Any rehabilitation to these houses affects the entire county. So we would like to work with you to craft a bill that benefits the entire county and all the communities within the county. We'd like an opportunity to explain to you, more specifically, the resources that are available to purchase, rehab these houses, put them back on the market, sell them to people in the community, and the safeguards which exist to prevent a reoccurrence of the foreclosure, which foreclosures, ironically, may have taken place because these safeguards were not in place.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to speak. We look forward to working with you in the near future to craft a bill that reflects the needs of the entire community. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you very much, Mr. Delando.

Margo Cargill, I believe.

MS. CARGILL: Good afternoon. Thank you

for the opportunity to speak. Margo Cargill. I am VP of the Uniondale Community Land Trust. As my predecessor said, we understand that the bill has been tabled for further review and deliberation. We are really encouraged by the possibilities of the Nassau County Land Bank. We look forward to the open dialogue and exchange to create a representative and effective land bank that will properly meet the challenges of widespread Island foreclosure and the zombie home epidemic that we're experiencing right now.

We further applaud this non-partisan cooperation with the Uniondale Community Land Trust as well as the National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University. I'm sorry, but Dean Levy was not able to attend; he had another engagement to attend. I understand from him that he had a conversation with Laura Curran and Frank Moroney, who offered the center's expertise and resources to help craft an effective land bank ordinance that will reflect best practices while representing community concerns.

Mr. Levy as well as Christopher, our resident expert on the Uniondale Community Land

Trust, apologize, once again, for not being able to attend themselves. Like I said, it was the Regional Economic Development Council meeting in Suffolk; whereby, they're experiencing the same issues that we're experiencing, and we're hoping to have a collaborative effort going so that both the counties will be able to work together to rectify this situation.

Once again, I just want to thank you all sitting here for deciding to take the time to construct the bill the right way the first time around so that we don't have to revisit this again.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, Margo.  
John Alexander Grant.

MR. GRANT: Good afternoon. First of all, I wanted to thank you for giving me your time and allowing me to speak to the presiding officer and the legislators. My name is John Alexander Grant, and I am here representing the Long Island Bus Riders Union. I am here to speak on a few changes we would like to see made to the public transportation meetings.

The public transportation meetings are currently being held at the NICE Bus headquarters, which is located at 700 Commercial Avenue in Garden City. Right now, they are not necessarily accessible to people who are taking public transportation. There's about one bus stop that gets anywhere near the NICE Bus headquarters. The nearest public transportation hub would be -- is at Roosevelt Field Mall and you would have to walk several blocks and cross several lanes of traffic in order to attend the meeting, which not only is it inconvenient and slightly dangerous but it virtually makes it impossible for anybody who is handicapped to attend these meetings.

Another problem with these meetings is that they are held at times when people would be at work. An average citizen who holds a 9 to 5 job would not be able to attend these meetings. The meetings are usually held around two or three o'clock when most of us are at work. We would like to see these meetings pushed to a time where people would be able to attend these meetings and be able to get there more readily.

Another thing that was brought to our attention was that the board that runs the meeting, there hasn't been a full board present there since December of last year. We would like there to be a full board whenever these public transportation meetings are held.

Just overall, public transportation is something that is important to a great number of people here in Nassau County, and they deserve to be able to attend these meetings and to be able to get there on time.

Thank you very much for your time.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Presiding Officer, just a quick question. Quick question. Quick question.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Quick question of whom?

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: To the young man.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: John.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: John, thank you very much for coming here today. In your opinion, where would be a reasonable place to hold these meetings and what time also would be



reasonable for commuters?

MR. GRANT: Time? Any time after five. Probably around like six or six thirty. People who are public transportation takers or bus riders, in general, time to get off of work, hop on a bus, and be able to attend these meetings.

A specific location? I don't have a specific place in mind right now. The bus riders union is willing to sit down with the Public Transportation Board and discuss and look at best routes and discuss where a suitable would be, because the location that it's in right now is not something that's readily accessible.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: How about at the main transportation hub in Hempstead?

MR. GRANT: Hmm?

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: How about at the main transportation hub in Hempstead, would that be convenient or here?

MR. GRANT: That sounds --

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I will say this, Legislator Solages. John, your points are well taken and they are not falling on deaf ears. We will certainly take them to where they should be.

If we need to resolve the transportation problem, we will do that. If the board is not moving in its full complexity, then guess what? Then they owe it to the public to do so or as close as possible.

So, your points are well taken and they have not fallen on deaf ears, and we will transfer them to the right people.

Thank you, John.

MR. GRANT: Thank you.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Just for the record, I've learned that these meetings were held at the Marriot in Uniondale in the past.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: There's something else that I'm thinking about but I'd rather not say it here until it's doable. That's why I said, John, we will take it to the people who need to address those issues.

MR. GRANT: Thank you very much.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Curran.

LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Thank you. One idea, I don't know if it would work out but it might be worth exploring, if we could do it here,

because we have the buses and we have the LIRR,  
very accessible.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Like I just said,  
Legislator Curran, I will take it to those who  
certainly can deliberate on it and make sure that  
those concerns are addressed.

LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Elaine McGrouder.

MS. MCGROUDER: My name is Elaine  
McGrouder, and I'm a Freeport resident. I'm  
truly delighted to be here again. As of today,  
there are now only three people worldwide, two  
people in alive today who were born in 1899,  
which is the year Nassau County was incorporated.  
Of the three, two are in the United States and  
the third is in Italy.

The second oldest is the Sussanah Mushatt  
Jones, and she lives in Brooklyn. Her birthday  
is going to be in a few weeks, on the Sixth of  
July. In recognition of this very special  
period, I would like to ask Nassau County  
legislators if you would please support a few of  
the events we are planning for these very special  
individuals. One is an inter-medical service. I

have chosen this as number one because most of our elderly folks are deeply religious and they credit their longevity to God and family support. The second would be -- by the way, these are going to be in the Autumn.

The second event would be the supportive grandparent. If you're 116, as these women are, then you would have been a grandparent many times, and you know how important all grandparents are. So I would like to ask if something can be given to a week-long celebration of grandparents. This can be linked to the United Kingdom where her Majesty, the Queen, head of the commonwealth, hopefully will be taking the reins from Queen Victoria in September, as where we will be having two grandparents holding the reigns within the Royal Family, Her Majesty the Queens and His Royal Highness Prince of Wales. They are both grandparents. I find that extraordinary. I think we have much to be grateful for all grandparents. So, like I said, a week-long celebration for all grandparents worldwide.

The third would be a national bicycle

ride. The reason for this is Nassau County has been supporting a bicycle ride in Boston, and this bicycle ride is in recognition of a young man who won the world project in 1899, Major Taylor. You can get all of this information on the internet.

I would like to say how very much I appreciate the support I have had from Nassau County Legislature and the Nassau County legislators. It's wonderful. I hope you can do something for these very special people. It's a once in a lifetime experience.

Thank you so much for allowing me to speak. We look forward to your support.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Would you send us information, please?

MS. MCGROUDER: I beg your pardon?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Would you send us any information you have that so we can possibly put some of your ideas into motion?

MS. MCGROUDER: Thank you so much.

When I was here on the 18th of May, I did mention to you about Mrs. Antonio Rivera in Florida. She was the oldest living. Sadly we

lost her on the 2nd of June.

Thank you, again.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,  
Elaine.

Joanne Borden.

MS. BORDEN: Good afternoon. Human  
rights are everyone's birthright and the  
Republican icon and idol, Ronald Reagan said,  
"Governments first duty is to protect the people,  
not run their lives." Protecting the rights of  
people, all the people, has always been the prime  
duty and responsibility, indeed, the single  
purpose of government. Reagan said, the only  
excuse for even existing.

You swear in the Republic Party oath to  
extend human rights throughout the world. Even  
the extremists who claim they are the true  
patriots -- the Tea Party -- said, "We support  
personal freedom so all Americans can live life  
the way they want."

We are asking you to end the worst part  
of discrimination, the fear of it, and simply  
allow us to share America's promise, to simply  
pursue happiness.

Stop the excuses. Tear down the facades. Stop hiding from inhumanity and masking the un-Americanism of your position. You say we are already included in the law but you are alone. The county attorney disagrees. Every other legal mind disagrees. You have to be thoroughly biased to deny there is, at the very least, a difference of opinion concerning our inclusion in Nassau's law.

In every civilized country one thing is a certainty, laws cannot contain uncertainty. The legal scholar Gustov Radbruch regarded the three fundamental pillars of law to be a triad of justice, utility and certainty. Legal certainty is a recognized requirement of law in the United States and throughout the civilized world. Thus, when a law like our Human Rights Commission Law is uncertain and subject to opinion, it always demands clarification. That is why Legislator Jacobs introduced the Gender Clarification Law.

Hear us: Keep your word. Honor your pledge. Excuse your duty. Fulfill your responsibility. Protect our human rights. Affirm our American birthright. End the

uncertainty of our inclusion in the law and, simply put, do the job you swore to do. Uphold the principles of your party, your office, your country, and pass the Gender Clarification Amendment.

Thank you for listening, those of you who were listening.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, Joanne.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I'm sorry. I'd like to say something.

I think it's important to have on record in the County that about two weeks ago, maybe three now, I'm not sure, North Hempstead, bipartisan board, passed the Gender Clarification Bill. And guess what? The next morning North Hempstead was still standing. And you know what? I think they were standing a little taller than they were before the passage of that bill, because they recognized, just like many of us on this board here recognize, that a human rights bill that we thought was perfect has an imperfection. Everyone has a right to a choice in their life. But no one has a right to be



prejudiced against or have people thorn at them or whatever.

We have an opportunity here to do a very simple thing, add a small sentence clarifying what gender is. It's embarrassing. It's horrifying. It's something that I just can't understand. Perhaps everybody who has a problem with this should speak to their people in North Hempstead and see how beautifully that went without any problem like this.

Joanne, I am so sorry that it's five years. But you know what? Perseverance does pay off sometimes. And you saw one thing happen. My gut feeling tells me you're going to see it here too. It should be corrected.

MS. BORDEN: Apparently the council people in North Hempstead understood that human rights are not a part of an individual. Human rights are a constitutional issue and American right. It's your duty to protect our human rights, and you're derelict in that duty, I'm sorry to say.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: But let me say something on behalf of the legislature.

When I was presiding officer and that human rights bill was passed, we actually believed that everything was covered and that everybody was covered. We had -- if I had the slightest idea that we were leaving out any group of people by omission of a gender explanation, it would have passed anyway because we just would have put it in there, that's all.

The fact that one of the authors of it and the presiding officer at the time is admitting there was a flaw and let's fix it, I can tell you that I agree with you. We certainly think it's a great law that we passed, but obviously not perfect, and we have a chance now to make it perfect.

MS. BORDEN: I don't know why we make it a political partisan issue. I don't understand it.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I don't understand it either.

MS. BORDEN: It's America.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: That's what it's about in America, to be inclusive.

MS. BORDEN: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Kathy Borden.

DR. BORDEN: My name is Dr. Kathy Borden. I'm a licensed psychologist and service professor in chair of the Department of Clinical Psychology at Antioch University.

I grew up in Nassau County. Although I do not live here right now, I have family and friends who do. I am here today to ask you to do the right and just thing by modifying your Human Rights Law to include equality and civil rights protections for your neighbors who are transgender.

Professional organizations, including the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, and many others, all agree that they need to specifically support transgender rights and mention people who are transgender and the demographic variable of gender identity as needed to be specifically named as protected categories in issues of human and civil rights.

Multiple municipalities including, as we just heard, North Hempstead and the counties surrounding Nassau County have determined that

there is a need to specifically mention gender identity in their civil rights law.

Your own county legal office has concurred that gender identity is not specifically protected in your law, and it is not unambiguously covered. These professionals all agree and the preponderance of evidence indicates that specifically mentioning this group is necessary to guarantee equal rights under the law.

I am not here today to ask you to naively go along with the crowd; rather, I ask you to be open to learning, to recognize that this board is isolated in its disagreement with the wisdom, experience, and expertise of professionals and elected officials, like yourselves, all around the country.

I'll give you the benefit of the doubt and assume that your inaction is not driven by your own prejudice or hatred towards this group of people. So perhaps fear is driving your lack of action. Perhaps you worry that some voters and even your own political party won't like this and that you will somehow limit your future

career or political opportunities by treating, as equals, a group that makes some people uncomfortable.

I argue that you have been entrusted with your office to represent all people, even those you may not fully understand. And so I urge you to put this amendment up for a vote, really consider it, and act quickly to fulfill the duties of your office.

Stand up and tell your constituents and your party this may make you uncomfortable but it is the right thing to do. Stand up and say my values include protecting the rights of all individuals and all groups in Nassau County. Stand up and point out that if one group is treated unfairly, we are all at risk of being treated unfairly. No one is safe.

Stand up for the core values of the United States and our Constitution, and for your own values and for your own values and caring that motivated you to run for office in the first place. Who could argue with this? Don't be afraid. Be courageous. Be wise. Be fair. Be leaders. Show that you care about all of your

constituents.

With your positive action on this amendment, you can actually help people while harming no one. What an amazing opportunity you have.

Stand up for justice, fairness, and equality. Put this up for a vote and amend your civil rights laws to include all people, no matter what clothing they wear or what gender they feel like or identify with deep inside.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, Dr. Borden.

Barbara Salva.

MS. SALVA: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to say it's nice to see you again, but it's not.

You've heard what was accomplished here in your own backyard, namely the Town of North Hempstead. You can either follow through with what they did and do the right thing by voting the amendment for the anti-discrimination law to include the trans community, as it has been mentioned so many times, or you can watch the

train go by without you.

You can show your leadership or be remembered for your outdated views on the trans civil rights. Anti-discrimination laws have been passed all around you. Life goes on. It will be okay. I promise you. You will go down in history as a legislature who cares about everyone, including the trans community. It can mean possibly saving a life.

The bullying and disrespect to the individuals in the trans community is becoming overwhelming because you, a governing body, will not make the move to show that you care.

You are all mothers and fathers, some grandmothers and grandfathers. Believe me, it can happen in your own family, in your own school, in your own neighborhood. You have no idea of what it means to feel unprotected in life.

I don't want to be here anymore. I don't want to pester you anymore. I want to move on. And when you do pass the amendment, you will see me one more time to say thank you. But until then, I promise you I will be a thorn in your

side, and I will not give up.

Please, pass the amendment for the anti-discrimination law to include the trans gender community. We will be forever grateful. And, yes, the elections are coming.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, Barbara.

Julie Owens. She will be the last speaker. The others will be heard at the time of the items on the calendar. Julie.

MS. OWENS: Good afternoon. My name is Julie Grey Owen, and I am the executive director of LITAC, The Long Island Transgender Advocacy Coalition. I would like to tell you about a recent case of transgender employment discrimination.

Two weeks ago, a female transgender activist was filmed by a local cable news show discussing the recent photo of Caitlin Jenner. The interview was shown throughout that evening and the following day on the cable news network. The activist, a transgender woman, was forced to work at her day job as a male in order to provide



for her family. She had done this successfully for 40 years in the same industry.

A former disgruntled employee saw the news show. She figured out that her former boss the trans activist on the television screen. The next day her husband began e-mailing the company owner, the general manager, and various employees, thus outing the transgender activist publicly. The transgender activist was terminated the next day. Sounds like a clear case of employment discrimination, right? Well, not exactly.

New York State is an at-will employment state. In simple terms, the employer is free to discharge individuals for good cause, bad cause, or no cause. So what does this have to do with Local Law 9-2006?

Many of you have stated that an amendment defining gender is unnecessary, even though the New York Civil Liberties Union, the Human Rights Campaign, and the New York State LGBT Advocacy Organization, The Empire State Pride Agenda, all support the need for the amendment. I'm sorry. But your opinion is not enough for us.

Because the road to a successful discrimination case is already so loaded against the transgender employee, we cannot allow one more issue to stand in our way and prevent us from being treated fairly by the government we pay for and support through our taxes.

Yesterday, LITEC sponsored our second annual march and rally for transgender rights. The event was covered by *Newsday* and News 12. As executive director, I believe the event was extremely successful as it placed our issues directly in front of the public.

The transgender phenomena is a major news story. You know it's true when ABC Family Television Network is showing a reality series about a teenage boy, his family, and how they are dealing with his father's transition to a woman.

I suggest to you that the tide is turning. Transgender people will gain significant support as this media story continues to grow. Do you think you can put off the inevitable? Do you think you can stall this movement? I can assure you that transgender activists on Long Island will continue to do

everything in our power to bring your refusal to fully protect your transgender constituents to light. We will demonstrate, in every county, legislative district, if that's what it takes. Are you prepared to be continually bombarded with questions about Nassau County's transgender civil rights with the increasing public and media scrutiny? There is another path which can be taken.

You can pass the amendment defining gender in Local Law 9-2006 and be hailed as heroic, concerned leaders. You can become a positive step in the fight for transgender civil rights and earn our respect and our thanks.

By the way, the transgender activist that was outted and terminated was me.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you.

That will end public comment for this half hour. We are going to proceed with the calendar. I know there are those of you who have put in slips, but they're on particular items. When those items are called, you will have an opportunity to speak. So we are going to proceed

with the full legislature. I need maybe two or three minutes to just make sure I have everything in order.

Thank you.

We are going to proceed but not in the order that the calendar reads. But before we do do that, I'm going to ask that I have a motion to suspend the rules.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR BECKER: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Becker.

All those in favor of suspending the rules signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The rules are suspended.

The reason for that is there are two items that need to be called because they have not met the 17 days rule; nevertheless, they did come before the committee.

We begin -- and I know there are certain people here. I'm going to move, as I said, out

of order. I'm going to go to one of the items that there are several people here and have been here since early morning.

Item 34, Resolution 115, a resolution authorizing the county executive to execute an inter-municipal agreement with the Seaford Union Free School District in connection with the county funding construction by the district of and for emergency access road on adjacent county property at the Seaford Harbor Elementary School.

Motion, please?

LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So moved.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by Legislator Rhoads, seconded by Legislator Dunne.

Okay. Would you like to speak on this item? Who is here to speak on this item? I think it is self explanatory, but I think there are a number of people from that particular area.

MR. CONBOY: Brian Conboy, Superintendent of Schools in the Seaford School District. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today.

What we have here is a 51 year problem in

our community, Seaford. The Seaford Harbor School was built 51 years ago and for that entire time it's had one road in and one road out; that's created numerous safety problems for our students and staff. We were fortunate enough to work with people from Nassau County who obtained ownership of some adjacent land, which was Department of Transportation land, took ownership. The county took ownership of that for the very specific purpose of allowing us to build an access road, which is a necessary thing, at this elementary school.

A few years ago, we had people from the DPW come down to the site and were there one morning where it was a huge traffic jam. This issue has been going on for years. Dennis Dunne and I have been speaking about it for a long, long time. When Mr. Rhoads was recently appointed as a legislator, he was nice enough to come to my office; we talked about a lot of things related to Seaford, and I told him this is item one for our community. Please help us to push this over the finish line.

Mr. Mangano told us two years ago that he

was very much in favor of it. We're right here. We're at the end. A 51 year problem could end today with your help.

I thank you so much.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, Superintendent.

I have Melanie. Is it Melanie or not? Or is it Donna?

MS. DELUCA-TROISI: Donna.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay, Donna.

MS. DELUCA-TROISI: I'm Donna Deluca-Troisi. I'm the principal of the Seaford Harbor School. I've been an administrator there for the last 15 years.

Our building holds 601 students and approximately 100 workers. We have only one way in and one way out. Often, there will be a bus, a truck, or something of that nature which might be coming down the road and not realize that they're ending up in a circle where the school ends and it causes a major traffic jam.

In inclement weather, I have had to stand out in front of the building and direct traffic to get my buses in and to get my students out

safely.

The neighborhood also realized the danger of this when Hurricane Sandy came about. So this isn't just about my school, but it's all about the families that live in Seaford Harbor too, because this access road would be available to them in case of an emergency.

It has been something that the first principal, Heather Schneider, 51 years ago, put in her notes, and it should have been taken care of then. So I'm asking you, on behalf of the safety of the Seaford Harbor School and the Seaford Harbor community, that you say yes to this access road.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, Donna.

And now, I believe it's Melanie.

MS. SCHNIER: Good afternoon. And thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. My name is Melanie Schnier. I'm speaking on behalf of the parents of the Seaford Harbor School.

The children of the Seaford Harbor School need your help. The school is at a dead end, with only one road in and one road out. If there



is ever, god forbid, an emergency of any kind during pickup, dismissal, god forbid, a child gets hurt or has an allergy attack of some sort, there really is no way for anybody to quickly get to that area.

On any given day you could wait 45 to 50 minutes at drop off and at pickup leaving the school. Sometimes I stand outside with my children for about an hour just until the traffic clears away so I can leave the building. It's just very nerve-wracking because you do have kids playing in the playground running around, and I never want to see an emergency happen where the emergency vehicles themselves wouldn't be able to get to that site.

So we really want a school environment where we can feel safe dropping our children off and not that they would feel trapped.

I do have pictures of the traffic, which I can show you. Yes, during Hurricane Sandy it was exacerbated because you did have trucks that were fixing things up blocking the road completely to get into the school and out of the school. But even a garbage truck picking up

garbage could create such a jam and block the entire road because you have the parents coming and circling out. They can't come out and now we can't go in and now everyone is stuck. School buses are lined up for what might be an hour and children are late, often times. But being late is the least of what we have to worry about. I always say that if we can't get in, how will they get in, meaning the emergency vehicles.

I just and to give a little personal story.

I picked my daughter up from Girl Scouts one evening. Right at the end of Bayview, which is the only road and only road out of the school, there was an electrical fire on the wire that runs over Bayview, the only way out, and it was spewing electrical flames. The police department and fire department were notified, and they wouldn't let anyone go underneath because they didn't feel safe because the flames were dropping out from the wire. I realized at that point how scared I was, and I was just one person with two children. I'm thinking what about 600 children and all the teachers and all the administration;

what would happen with them?

I had someone else's daughter with me at the time. I called her mother and said I just wanted to let you know we're safe but I'm not leaving Seaford Harbor. We're kind of trapped here. I'm not going underneath the wire. I will keep your daughter safe with me. I was trying to stay calm, even though I was a nervous wreck. I said to myself, you know what? I'm going to try to turn down some of these other streets to get out of here. Maybe I could find the magic way. And there is no magic way. You are stuck in that little area. I was driving up and down the streets in Seaford Harbor. I almost resorted to finding someone's boat and sailing away, and I don't know how to sail. I was trying to stay calm. I said this is scary. That episode was a catalyst for me, as a parent, to say these kids need help and somebody needs to help them.

I implore you, from a parent's perspective, to please help the children of the Seaford Harbor School. Thank you very much.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Donna, do you want to submit those photos for the record?

MS. DELUCA-TROISI: Absolutely, yes.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any comments from the legislators?

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Yes, if you don't mind.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Dunne.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Fifty-one years ago there was a Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway that was supposed to go all the way to Jones Beach and all the way up to Connecticut, and it was stopped because some people didn't want it and they ran out of money, 18 different excuses. Because that was going to go all the way through Seaford to Jones Beach they thought they were going to have other egresses from the school. It didn't materialize and they were stuck on a peninsula with only one road. That one road is the in and out road. It's not one road in and one road out. It's one road that has to go in and out, so it's really scary.

I was a legislator there for 10 years. I went and read to the children there and I didn't do different things, programs that they had there.

I said to myself when parents were coming at the end of the day, there is no way I could have got in my car and got out of there. It was just god awful.

Every mom wants to pick up Johnny or Sally and see them come out of the school and get into the car and get them home safely. My daughter does it up in Connecticut with her children. There's nothing wrong with that. You love your children and want to be there for them. Well, it is jam packed. I said if I have a heart attack right now there is not one emergency vehicle that could get in here. They can't even get a helicopter in because it's marshland around the school. I said what are we going to do?

At the time the superintendent was Mr. Duffy. He said we've been trying for years to get an egress road, and so here's where we want it. In the front of the school, we want to go across the swamp, into the parkland, and take the park road out. I said, you know what? Let me get the Army Corps of Engineers and see what's the best route. Well, we got the Army Corps of Engineers there, we checked it out, and there's a

better way to get across. You don't have to go through parkland. You don't have to go through alienation of parkland and all of that other horrible stuff. So we found the shortest route out of there, which was wonderful. Duffy came and went. Superintendent Markhold (phonetic) came, and we brought in Peter King's office. We had the United States people there from the federal government. We had state government there. Dave McDonough came a number of times, Assemblyman McDonough. I even brought Angie Cullen and her office from the Town of Hempstead to see what we could do, what they could do to help us. Everybody wanted to do something, but we couldn't find -- Nassau County DPW and Parks Department were there constantly with me trying to find a way to get in or out. PTA was always, always asking us. They weren't on our back. They were right in saying, we need this, we need this, we need this. The Seaford Harbor PTA was only one small PTA in a big town that has a lot of different schools.

I even went to the bridge at Jones Beach, one of the contractors there. They said we'll

give you the dirt that you need to get across the swamp and you can go to the state and get a temporary road that will last 100 years to put across there. That didn't fly. The state wouldn't give us the road. We tried everything.

Brian Conboy came in and we looked like we were making headway. We were going great. Eddie Mangano gets in office and he says you know what? We're going to do it. Brian, we're going to do it. You make a good case. We're going to do it for you. It hasn't happened yet.

Now in comes this young kid -- maybe not to you but to me anybody is young. Anyway. That Steve Rhoads kid comes in and lights the fire under it. I've got to publicly thank you, Steve, for all your efforts. Bingo. It's like magic. The kid came in, put the pressure on, and he knows exactly how to talk. He's an attorney. He talked to the county executive and it's moving. The people of Seaford, who I represented for ten years, we owe Steve Rhoads our lives. God bless you, Steve, for what you've done for the people of Seaford.

LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I certainly

appreciate those comments, Legislator Dunne.

Madam Presiding Officer, if you would allow me to speak a little bit on the issue.

My first experience with the issues down at Seaford Harbor School actually was in 1992 when I joined the Wantagh Fire Department. Our engine company and rescue company are actually one of the two first responding companies to the Seaford Harbor School in the event of an emergency. Having had the opportunity to witness the congestion, which has only gotten worse since the area has become more congested as we have more people and more vehicles down there, it really is a public safety problem that couldn't be ignored any longer.

I want to thank Legislator Dunne for the tremendous homework that he did on this issue, in trying to work out the agreements for the state for the land to be able to be transferred and doing a lot of the homework. He and so many people got the ball probably to the five yard line. I'm happy I could push it through the end zone.

I want to thank so many people for



bringing attention to this matter. Obviously, not only Superintendent Conboy and Principal Delucia-Troisi for their tremendous leadership, but also the Seaford Harbor PTA and Dan Castone (phonetic) and Rita Mataloney (phonetic) and the Friends of Wantagh-Seaford really did tremendous work in bringing this to the attention of everyone.

I remember back in 2013 when I was running for this seat News 12 was actually brought down for the opportunity to take a look at what exactly happens at pickup time and dismissal time and at drop off time at that school. For those of you who haven't had the opportunity to see it, it's a regular side street. Bayview is a regular side street with parking on either side, which means that there is enough room for one car or one bus to be able to go in or go out. You can't do both at the same time. With the volume of cars that were there, with the volume of buses that were there, it really was an issue, heaven forbid, there was ever an emergency. We have had occasions where there have been emergencies, but fortunately we

haven't suffered any harmful results as a result of the inability of emergency vehicles to access. It was a ticking time bomb. It was only a matter of time before something was going to take place and everyone would wonder why.

As I'm learning in government, there are quite a few head scratching moments, and this was one of those head scratching moments of why did it take 50 years for this actually to come to fruition.

Seaford Harbor PTA took incredible leadership on that, in bringing attention to the issue, as did the Friends of Wantagh-Seaford. Rite Mattalone created a petition drive and was helped out, obviously, by the Seaford Harbor PTA as well. They collected almost 700 signatures, which on any particular issue is very difficult to do, to draw attention to this matter and finally get people involved and bring the public's attention to the need for the access road. They have been tremendous in their support. Together, with Legislator Dunne and the County Executive, really are the reason that this is going to happen today.

I give all of you tremendous credit for really pushing the issue. They say that you can't fight City Hall. The reality is today you have proven that you can, you did, and today you're going to win. So I want to congratulate all of you who are here today that had a part in this happening. Great job.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other legislator, would you like to comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none; we heard from the public.

Item 34, all those in favor of Item 34 signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The item passes unanimously.

Good job. Good job.

What is usually the custom, we call items that have passed through committees but have been voted upon in a bipartisan way, and we call that the consent calendar. I believe we're going to begin with Item 9, Item 10, Item 11, Item 12,

Item 13, Item 14, Item 15, Item 16, Item 17, Item 18, Item 19, Item 20, Item 22, Item 23, Item 25, Item 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, and 37.

Motion, please?

LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator Ford.

Any comments?

(No verbal response.)

Any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none; all those in favor  
signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The items pass unanimously.

Did you want to speak on any of these,  
Mr. Budnick?

MR. BUDNICK: Thank you very much.

There are a number of items here going through  
the district attorney's office that raise the

potentiality of a conflict of interest. I think the district attorney's office needs to assure it is not. These are going to social programs which I think are deserving. People who are in some of these social programs come to the attention of the district attorney's office or the social program and, at a later time, become an object of the district attorney's office prosecution, there may be some extremely awkward situations created by that.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Just for the record, I just don't see any possible conflict there. I just didn't understand that point.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: All those in favor of those consent items signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The items pass unanimously.

We have several, four hearings. I'm going to begin with -- I'm going backwards --

which is Item 4, which is the hearing on Resolution Number 105. It's a resolution consenting to the acquisition and use of by the Locust Valley Cemetery Association, Inc., of certain land for cemetery purposes.

Motion to open the hearing?

LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Motion by Legislator MacKenzie, seconded by Legislator Walker.

All those in favor of opening the hearing signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The hearing is open.

Who is going to speak on this item? Is anyone here to speak on this item? Name, please.

MR. COLGROVE: My name is Peter Colgrove. I'm with the Law Firm of Humes & Wagner, the attorneys for Locust Valley Cemetery Association.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay. Educate

us.

MR. COLGROVE: The Association, the Locust Valley Cemetery Association is a not-for-profit corporation duly organized and existing under the Laws of the State of New York and was incorporated in 1917. The Association maintains and operates a public cemetery at 117 Ryefield Road, Locust Valley, in the Village of Lattingtown.

The land comprising the cemetery consists of approximately 33.95 acres. The last two acres of the cemetery were acquired in 2014. The Nassau County Legislature approved the acquisition and use of such land for cemetery purposes by Resolution Numbered 13-2013, dated February 25, 2013.

The Association wishes to expand the area of the cemetery by acquiring, by deed, from CMM, LLC, land consisting of 2.247 acres, which is immediately adjacent to the cemetery. This is property known as Section 30, Block F, Lot 30 on the Nassau County Land and Tax Map.

The cemetery only has approximately five acres of undeveloped land. At the rate of 200

grave sales per year, it is expected that the cemetery will be fully developed with no graves to cell to the community by the year 2032. The purchase of the 2.247 acre parcel will allow the cemetery to continue to sell graves until approximately the year 2040.

The grave sales remain around 150 a year, which they have been these last few years. The cemetery could continue to sell graves until approximately the year 2046.

The purchase of the land is also important in that the additional sales generated should result in the Association's endowment to increase due to the passage of time and increased grave sales by over \$10 million. It is important that when the cemetery is completed developed and all grave sites are sold that the Association's endowment have sufficient ties to generate annual income to pay for the upkeep and maintenance of the cemetery in the manner in which is it maintained today. Without the income generated from the sale of the graves from the land to be acquired, it is uncertain that the endowment will be the size necessary to generate the income



needed to maintain the cemetery in perpetuity.

In order for the cemetery or the Association to consummate the land purchase, Section 1506 of the New York State Not-for-Profit Law requires the following approvals: The approval from the county legislative body, one; approval from the local legislative body, which would be the Board of Trustees for the Village of Lattingtown; and an order from the Nassau County Supreme Court. We submit a petitioner's request for a court order once we obtain the approvals hopefully from this board and also from the Village of Lattingtown Board of Trustees. We would then close on the purchase once we obtain all the approvals and obtain the court order.

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any comments from the legislators?

(No verbal response.)

There being none; any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

Motion to close the hearing?

LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator Ford.

All those in favor of closing the hearing  
signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The hearing is now closed.

MR. COLGROVE: Thank you. And thank you  
to Legislator MacKenzie for all of his help in  
moving this forward. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're welcome.

MR. COLGROVE: And also Legislator  
DeRiggi-Whitton, who has helped us many times  
before too. So thank you very much.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay. That's  
good. All right.

Now we're going to the next hearing,  
which is Item 3, Ordinance 63.

I'm going to change the order. I'm going  
to Item 24, which is the ordinance on the -- I'm  
sorry -- the resolution on item that was just  
spoken about, and that's Resolution 105,

consenting to the acquisition and use by the  
Locust Valley Cemetery Association, Inc., of  
certain land for cemetery purposes.

Motion, please?

LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
Legislator MacKenzie, seconded by Legislator  
Kopel.

Any further comments or questions  
regarding this item?

(No verbal response.)

Public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none; all those in favor of  
Item 24 signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The item passes unanimously.

Now we're going to go to the next  
hearing. The hearing is Item 3, Ordinance 63, an  
ordinance to adopt the Nassau County Budget for  
Nassau Community College for the fiscal year

commencing September 1, 2015 and ending August 31, 2016, and to appropriate revenues and the total amount of monies to be raised by taxation within the County of Nassau for the purposes of Nassau Community College for such fiscal year, pursuant to the provisions of the Education Law, the County Law, the Nassau County Municipal Law, the County Government Law of Nassau County, and the Nassau County Administrative Code.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Kennedy.

Who is here to speak on this one?

All those in favor of opening the hearing signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The hearing is now open. Dr. Saunders, it's your turn.

DR. SAUNDERS: Presiding Officer Gonsalves, Minority Leader Abrahams, and Members of the County Legislature, I would like to thank

you for providing Nassau Community College with the opportunity to share with you our views on our proposed college budget for fiscal year 2015/16. I would particularly like to thank out by thanking Presiding Officer Gonsalves for expediting the consideration of the College budget. As you know, the College budget has been considered by the legislature in July and even in August, and I understand how that might come about due to the various timelines and notice requirements under the Legislature's rules. However, starting with the deliberative, yet expeditious consideration of the College budget by the county executive and his Office of Management and Budget, followed up by the presiding officer's scheduling decision, the stage is set this year for the College budget to be considered during June, which is optimal from the students' perspective, in terms of giving them certainty as to the college cost. It is also optimum from an administrative perspective, in terms of the calculations of student aid packages.

So, from the outset, let me express my

gratitude to the presiding officer and all of the members of the legislature for participating in this expeditious consideration.

I know that from each of our positions we deal with weighty issues, but it is always more comfortable to deal with them within the context of having the train run on time. We believe that the budget before you today will allow Nassau Community College to continue to provide the high standard of academic excellence that it has in the past, while at the same time to provide its students with an affordable and accessible educational opportunity.

Looking at the salient points that I know of are interest to the members of the legislature, let me note that for the seventh consecutive year the budget does not assume an increase in the county property tax allocated to the College. Let me quickly add, however, that the College continues to be very grateful to the aid that the county executive and this legislature have provided for capital improvements to the College that have literally changed the face of the campus and for the

benefits of our students, faculty, and staff.

In addition, the budget not only holds the line on spending but it, in fact, lowers the bottom line by \$2.9 million, or 1.34 percent, from the level of last year's adopted budget. Therefore, the projected budget total for 2016 will be \$213,678,663, compared to last year's adopted budget of \$216,581,000. Most of this reduction reflects savings that we'll realize as a result of the retirement incentive offered to the Civil Service Employees in August of 2014, and the savings that we anticipate will be realized from the retirement of incentives that is a part of the new contract with the Nassau Community College Federation of Teachers, which is the bargaining unit for the full-time professors.

With respect to the CSEA incentive, all of the 30 retirees, or all of the 30 retirees only one position has been backfilled. With respect to the faculty positions, which are operationally necessary for program effectiveness, they will be filled by full-time professors at the starting salary level.

Otherwise, those positions will be filled with adjunct faculty or not backfilled at all.

To ease the immediate financial impact of these retirements, in terms of termination pay, we have discussed utilizing the same option for the NCCFT incentive, that the county executive and this legislature agreed to with respect to the Civil Service retirement incentive, which was for the county bond the cost and for the College to reimburse the county for the principal and the interest of the debt service.

Although let me quickly state that no one made any commitments. I believe it is fair to suggest that the reaction to this proposal has been understanding and supportive.

The budget also assumes a cut, not including utilities, of 15 percent in spending for other than personal services, which would save almost another \$1 million.

With respect to enrollment, we are projecting a two percent decline. However, let me hasten to note that there are two components to enrollment -- attracting new students and retaining those students who are already



attending NCC. As far as attracting new students, the preliminary numbers for the upcoming semester are very encouraging, and we are on the plus side. The continuing challenge for the College is to improve our retention rate. In order to help meet that challenge, the new contract between the NCCFT and the College establishes a joint faculty/administration retention committee to make recommendations for improvements in this situation. In addition, the College's Board of Trustees has embarked upon an effort to have the College administration and the faculty review issues dealing with degree requirements and placement testing. The Board believes that the College's current policies and practices in these areas could be having a negative impact on the College's retention rate. The College administration is fully support of the board's efforts. Nevertheless, I would like to take just a moment to note that while it is important to be mindful of various measures of accountability, those measures have their limits as well. For example, this year's NCC valedictorian graduated with a 4.0 GPA, but since

he did not begin his college career at NCC, he is not considered a graduate for the purposes of the Federal Scorecard on graduation rates, and that's unfortunate.

State aid this year was increased by \$100 per full time equivalent student. Every \$50 per FTE translates into approximately \$1 million, although this number is offset to an extent by any decline in enrollment. Again, as with the County, the State continues to be very supportive of the College in terms of capital funding, with NCC always being near the top of community colleges receiving state aid for capital projects.

Unfortunately, even with all of these steps, in developing the budget we were still presented with a \$6 million gap between revenues and expenditures. This gap basically results from the need to make up for the one-shot revenue sources that were utilized in last year's effort to balance our budget and to keep any tuition increase as low as possible. Approximately half of that \$6 million in one-shots was derived from using funds that had been set aside for potential

liabilities to the College that, with the passage of time, we determined would not materialize.

The remainder of the one shots resulted from the use of a portion of the College's fund balance.

This year, further use of the fund balance would be problematic because our fund balance is

already below the board of trustees' policy of

four percent of our operating expenses and below

the five percent to 15 percent of operating

expenses that outside organizations recommend as

an appropriate fund balance level. Our concern

is that if we were to dip into our fund balance

for a significant amount more, then we could

start to encounter liquidity problems.

It is within the context that the budget recommends a tuition increase for this year of

\$300. Trust me; we would prefer that it would be

otherwise. However, for the reasons I have

already stated, we believe that it is necessary.

This would put our tuition level of \$4,534 per

year. But there is an additional context that I

would ask you to consider this number within. At

this level, Nassau Community College would still

have the lowest tuition for two and four year

schools in the region - lower than CUNY and lower than Suffolk Community College. I would also note that there are no fee increases in this budget.

In closing, let me point out that this past year has been one of great achievements for the College. Just to give you just a few examples, we have repurposed one of the best buildings on the campus for use as a veterans' resource facility, and I know that several members of the legislature attended its opening. Our football team went undefeated and won a national bowl game. NCC's speech and debate team is a regional champion for the fourteenth, yes, fourteenth, year in a row. And our faculty and students continue to be honored by the State University of New York and nationally for their excellence, and it was a proud moment for them and for the College when they were honored for those achievements earlier today.

We are continually grateful to the county executive and the County Legislature for their ongoing and steadfast support of the College. And it is with this support that we will continue

to provide the affordable, high quality higher education that will serve our students and the communities in which they live.

And I will take any questions that you might have.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any legislators have any comments? Legislator Jacobs.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Again, thank you for a very comprehensive understanding of what's going on.

Do you have any concerns that the increase in tuition -- I understand that it's needed. Do you have any idea, has this affected the enrollment at all, do you think?

DR. SAUNDERS: I don't believe that it has had a negative impact on our enrollment. Forty-percent of our students are recipients of financially -- when I say financially, that's the full financial aid package that does not include loans. The remaining percentage, the good percentage of those individuals are recipients of a variety of aid packages, which would include a combination of loans and other resources. My concern is that our retention is our biggest

challenge.

Our enrollment numbers are higher today than they were this time last year. We are still attracting students. Our biggest challenge is retaining them throughout the two year process until graduation or time of transfer.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: It's a challenge, but it's a credit to all of you because most likely when they come in and they do well they move on, and that's something -- I know you need them to finish to have the statistics. But the truth of the matter is, it's probably a credit to the institution that they're getting that kind of education, I would say, anyway.

DR. SAUNDERS: Thank you very much.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Deputy Presiding Officer Nicoletto.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Just wanted to follow up on that, Dr. Saunders, on what Legislator Jacobs just said.

I'm curious. I understand what you said about retention being important. Nassau Community College is such an incredible value in education. If you see what the costs are

throughout the country and the education that students are getting, and the fact that they can move on after they graduate and the credits carry over. I'm just curious. I would just think you would have people banging at your doors, just in terms of the actual enrollment. Why there would be a drop; again, in the context of how much it costs to go anywhere else. Do you have any ideas?

DR. SAUNDERS: I think a portion of it may just have to be directly related to where we are in our economy today. If you look at the enrollment of community colleges across the nation there is a gradual decline in the number of students that are coming to community colleges. Some of it, depending upon where you're located regionally, is attributable to the declining number of high school graduates. Others, it's just an intense reduction in the economy that's having the negative impact on students going to college, in general. I think the combination of those two variables are probably the two most significant variables impacting the decline.

We provide an incredible educational experience at the best price available and our students that transfer go on and do exceptionally well, and those are the attributes and the qualities that would bring any individuals interested in transforming their lives in a very positive way to come to a place like us, Nassau Community College. We do what we do better than any institution I know at a two-year level.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you very much.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Ford.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very much. I'm over here, Sir.

Do you take -- do you do an exit interview or do you ever, like, find out, like, when a student is leaving Nassau Community College other than to transfer, is there any way that you could maybe find out exactly why a student would be leaving or is it just common knowledge, because they have to get a full-time job or they just can't continue with their studies.

DR. SAUNDERS: We are beginning to



collect more information on our students that are leaving. We were doing it with our students who were graduating, but it was done on more of a voluntary basis. So the significance of the information to make projections, in terms of what's happening across the board, we weren't collecting enough information for that. So we are changing the mode by which we're going to be collecting information to get a better handle on why our students are leaving.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Wonderful. I know my daughter used Nassau Community College as a transition from high school to going way to college. On the other hand, my son is one of those rare people that actually spend four years at Nassau Community College. You kept him, and I thank you very much. It's a great institution. And I thank you very much for all the hard work that you do on behalf of our students and our residents.

DR. SAUNDERS: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Dunne.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Thank you.

You recently had a luncheon over at

Nassau Community College showcasing the arts, and it was phenomenal, what's going on at the school. I just wish all of us were able to get there to see it. It's unbelievable. You could compete with anybody in the country, with our arts program there.

We have programs for X-Ray technicians and nurses that walk right into jobs right out of Nassau Community College. What you've done with that home for the veterans is outstanding. I'm so proud of what you've done there.

Our firefighters going there free of charge. You've always provided for them. Even when we didn't get the SAFER grant, you guys stood up and you helped the firefighters out.

The athletics that you saw today, with the wrestling, and then you mentioned football, it's football, it's absolutely -- what a great place.

Academically, we continue to be extremely high on the charts. And I think you're doing a wonderful job. I just wanted to say thank you.

DR. SAUNDERS: Thank you. And if I could only have our marketing department to come

2 back and record what you've just said, it would  
3 be an excellent advertisement for Nassau  
4 Community College.

5 Thank you, again, for your support.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Bynoe.

7 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you, Presiding  
8 Officer.

9 Good afternoon, President Saunders.

10 DR. SAUNDERS: Thank you.

11 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I'd just like to take  
12 the opportunity to thank you and your  
13 administrative staff in the registration office,  
14 along with Professor Anissa Moore (phonetic) for  
15 taking the time to have some of your graduating  
16 students come out and do a peer mentoring program  
17 in the schools throughout Hempstead, Westbury,  
18 and also Lakeview/Malverne.

19 The program was well received. The young  
20 people were fully engaged. I know that you have  
21 quite a lot to do in-house, but to come into the  
22 high schools and encourage the students, I think  
23 it should be commended. So thank you very much.

24 DR. SAUNDERS: Thank you.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: It seems like a

love fest is going on here.

Legislator Solages.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you very much, Presiding Officer.

Dr. Saunders, first of all, I'd like to say that you're doing an excellent job there at Nassau Community College, and it is an asset to have you there.

Secondly, I have a question. Are on-line universities posing a challenge to the Community College, in terms of enrollment?

DR. SAUNDERS: I don't think that they are. I think there was a period when the on-line institutions just started that there was a big rave for them and a lot of individuals were choosing that as a viable option. But if you note, Briarcliffe, Sanford Brown, those institutions are closing their doors now or looking for buyers to buy them out.

There is a place for online learning but the online learning modability is not a modality that is a suitable one for every student. It takes a particular type of student with a certain type of individual drive and motivation to really

excel in an environment like that. When you compare that with the face-to-face instruction, the experiences can be very different. It's nice to have a combination of the two available for students given the diversity of students and their learning styles. I definitely do not believe that the online institutions have had a negative impact on the enrollment for us.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Walker.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you. I, too, would like to thank you for all you have done for the College and certainly the administration. I'm so very proud of our students who attend. The students who we honored here today were just amazing.

I do think the economy has a lot to do with the retention. I know in my community there are students who started out at Nassau, and some of them have said you know, Mrs. Walker, I'm just going to take a little break. I promise I'm going to go back, you know, like they have to report to me or something.

Financially, they're really not sure what

direction they want to go in. They said I feel like I'm spending money and I don't know where to go yet. Maybe if I get a job for a little bit and I see what's out there and I see what I really want to do and then I'm going back. Many of them do go back to school. So I do think that plays a big part of it.

I think it's hard for you to have to let those students go because you hate for them to go. Sometimes they'll go and they're not going to come back to school.

DR. SAUNDERS: That's true.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: But I think all we can do, and even reaching out to them if they are leaving and not going on to another school, seeing, you know, the reason that they're leaving, maybe that's something we could help address also.

Again, I just want to thank you. And I'm so proud of all our kids. Certainly, our teams there have done wonderful, and our artwork that's there. So many wonderful pluses come out of a great, great school. People from other areas say to me you're very, very lucky, you have a great

community college there in Nassau. It certainly makes me smile and makes me very proud.

Thank you.

DR. SAUNDERS: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other comments from the legislators?

(No verbal response.)

There being none; any public comment on the College budget?

(No verbal response.)

Motion to close the hearing on the College budget?

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Kopel.

All those in favor of closing the hearing signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The hearing is now closed.

We will move to the item, which is Item Number 7, Ordinance 63, pertaining to the College

budget; an ordinance to adopt the Nassau County budget for Nassau Community College for the fiscal year commencing September 1, 2015 and ending August 31, 2016, and to appropriate revenues in the total amount of monies to be raised by taxation within the County of Nassau for the purposes of Nassau Community College, for such fiscal year, pursuant to provision of the Education Law, the County Law, the General Municipal Law, the County Government Law of Nassau County, and the Nassau County Administrative Code.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Walker.

Any comments regarding this item?

(No verbal response.)

Any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none; all those in favor -- hold on. John. John, let's hear from you.

MR. BUDNICK: Madam Chair, members of the Legislature, one thing I'd like to do first



is commend Mr. Becker for being back here with us, and thank God for.

Nassau Community College was a home away from home for me. I was born there when it was an air force base. I'm concerned that we need to create a historical district there. I believe that will very possibly, and it's only possibly, lead to additional funding for the school because it will be a park preserve historical district, and bring in funds to the school that way and help to defray the budget that Nassau Community College needs, and it will help it in the future. I hope that consideration is given for that also.

You're speaking to the choir when you say, hooray, Nassau Community College. I could give you a number of stories that would -- it blows my mind when I think about them.

Have a very good day. God bless you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, Mr. Budnick.

All those in favor of Item 7, Ordinance 63 signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The item passes unanimously.

Congratulations. Continued success.

Now we're going to go to -- before I get to the next hearing there is one item, Item 21, that was not called with the consent calendar, primarily because it needs to be amended. But I will call the item.

Item 21, Ordinance 77, an ordinance supplemental to the annual appropriation ordinance in connection with the Department of Mental Health, Chemical Dependency, and Developmental Disability Services.

Motion, please?

LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator Dunne.

What I need, and it's really a change in the department name. I need an amendment in the nature of a substitution for this item.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So moved.

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by

Legislator Nicoletto, seconded by Legislator  
Kopel.

The amendment is simply changing the  
department appropriation from the Department of  
Mental Health, etcetera, etcetera, to the  
Department of Human Services, Office for the  
Aging. It was a name change.

Any questions regarding that?

(No verbal response.)

There being none; all those in favor of  
that amendment signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

Now, for the item as amended, Item 21;  
all those in favor of Item 21 signify by saying  
aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The item passes unanimously. So that's  
taken care of.

Now we go to the next hearing, which is  
hearing 2, which has to do with a local law to

amend the Miscellaneous Laws of Nassau County  
with respect to apprenticeship training programs  
for county contracts.

Motion to open the hearing?

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR BECKER: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Becker.

All those in favor of opening the hearing  
signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The hearing is now open.

Okay. You're going to talk to us about  
this apprenticeship program.

MR. PODLESACK: Yes, I am, Madam  
Presiding Officer.

This is an amendment to Miscellaneous Law  
Number 51, which is the apprenticeship program.  
The apprenticeship program is long established.  
This is, however, an attempt to close something  
of a loophole, which is that it allows supposed  
participants in an apprenticeship program never

to actually graduate and allow them to move up to journeyman status. By enacting this legislation, this loophole will be closed.

Contractors having apprenticeship programs will have to prove that the apprentices have completed their training.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any questions from legislators? Legislator Ford.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very much. This is important legislation.

My question then would be, we know within New York State, you know, that all contractors must register, I believe, register the apprenticeship classes or training programs that they have; am I correct?

MR. PODLESACK: That is my understanding of the law.

LEGISLATOR FORD: What happens if it's an out-of-state contractor?

MR. PODLESACK: If it's an out-of-state contractor it is supposed to be participating as a New York State contractor. My understanding of the law, it does apply to them.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Okay. So this will

2 help, hopefully ensure that maybe the work will  
3 more so go to New York workers rather than out-  
4 of-state people.

5 MR. PODLESACK: My understanding is that  
6 it will help New York workers.

7 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very much.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other  
9 questions or comments from the legislators?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 Any public comment on this?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 I have two people here who have submitted  
14 a slip. Edward Enders. Edward, I didn't forget  
15 you.

16 MR. ENDERS: Good afternoon. My name is  
17 Edward Enders. Thank you for having me. I'm  
18 with the Northeast Regional Council of  
19 Carpenters. I'm here to support the apprentice  
20 training for the county contracts.

21 We also have to remember that not  
22 everybody in Nassau County goes on to college.  
23 Many people find a good job in the building  
24 trades. They learn through an approved  
25 apprentice program. And in our program we do

graduate apprentices. It's a four-year program. The county then will know that they are getting the best-trained workers, workers who know how to work safely and productively. We spend a lot of money on our training so that our members can keep up with new technology, new products, new methods. I would just hope that the legislature would support this amendment.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Just a quick question. At one time you were Local 7.

MR. ENDERS: Yes, we were Local 7. Now we are Local 290. They changed the number.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: You had a great program. You're right, you guys are terrific.

MR. ENDERS: Our program is open to anybody who wishes to see it. Anybody up on the dais up there, anytime you want to come down we'll give you a tour of our program. We're very, very proud of it.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Edward, we're planning on doing just that.

MR. ENDERS: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you very much.

Thomas Herron.

MR. HERRON: Good afternoon. My name is Thomas Herron. I'm a council representative for the Northeast Regional Council of Carpenters, like my brother Edward.

It's just fitting that we follow after Nassau Community College's bill that just comes up, because we know to live in this county education really is the key.

The training facility that we have, that the carpenters offer is really second to none. As we heard at the beginning of the opening statement, a lot of programs don't graduate actual candidates. They claim to have a program. It's really a bogus program.

I have with me today our graduating classes from 2010. We had 20 graduates. 2011, we had 31 graduates. In 2012, 19 graduates. In 2013 we had 30 grads. Last year we had 23 graduates from a state certified apprenticeship program. These are all local residents. This is here for you to view after the meeting, if you



wish. I have all the grads right here. As he said, not everyone can go on to college.

This is a great opportunity for our local residents to move forward in the workforce.

Thank you for the time.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, Thomas.

Any other public comment? Legislator Becker.

LEGISLATOR BECKER: Thomas, could you do us a favor? When you have graduates, like with the college and other organizations, they send to us the graduates with the community they're from. We'd love to send them a congratulatory letter from our various respective offices. If you could do that, the 2015 or 2014 whoever the graduates were.

MR. HERRON: Sure.

LEGISLATOR BECKER: And let us know what community they're from. Send it to the presiding officer, she will get it to all of us, and this way we can send them a congratulatory note. We'd like to do that.

MR. HERRON: Absolutely. We'd be glad

to.

LEGISLATOR BECKER: Thank you.

MR. HERRON: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Good comment,  
Legislator Becker.

I believe it would be in order to take a  
motion to close the hearing.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator  
Kennedy.

All those in favor of closing the hearing  
signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The hearing is now closed.

Now we move to the item on the hearing,  
which is Item 6, a local law to amend the  
Miscellaneous Laws of Nassau County with respect  
to apprenticeship training programs for county  
contractors.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Kennedy.

All those in favor of the local law  
signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The item passes unanimously.

Congratulations, guys.

Now for the last hearing, which is Item  
Number 1, it's a hearing on a local law to amend  
the County Charter in relation to the  
registration of lobbyists.

A motion to open the hearing?

LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator Ford.

All those in favor of opening the hearing  
signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The hearing is now open.

We have Counsel, Elizabeth Loconsolo, who will give us a description of the legislation.

MS. LOCONSOLO: Good afternoon. This is a local law to amend the County Charter with respect to Article 11, County Attorney, which will require the registration of lobbyists and disclosure of lobbying activities. In addition, it requires contractors, consultants, and vendors to also file a disclosure form, which will include disclosure of any lobbyist they have engaged at any stage in contracting or attempting to enter into consulting work with the county.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Jacobs.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I just wanted to ask you a couple of questions just for clarification for myself.

In Section 1 there is something about the filing shall be completed on or before January 15 by persons who have been retained, employed, or designated as lobbyists. Right? Okay. Section 1113 states that any lobbyist required to file a statement of registration pursuant to the first

section, I just read, of this Title shall file with the county attorney by the 15th day succeeding the end of the reporting period, such responding period shall be a period from January 1 to March 31, April 1 to May 31, June 1 to August 31, and September 1 to December 31. What I'm confused about is this.

They have to file by January 15 and then what if they become a lobbyist after that date? Can you just explain to me how this covers them, that they would constantly have to re-file. It reads to me as if that's the deadline date to file.

MS. LOCONSOLO: You're correct. The initial date for a lobbyist to file is that January date.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Right.

MS. LOCONSOLO: Thereafter, the section that you're referring to are the periodic reports. So there is continuous reporting by lobbyists.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: And even new ones, even new lobbyists that come aboard.

MS. LOCONSOLO: Absolutely.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: All right.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Judy, I think in that same section it says that if they come on board after December 31 they have to file within 15 days.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Right.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Basically, if they become a lobbyist after the deadline for registering, during the course of the year, within 15 days of them becoming a lobbyist.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Of each deadline.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: No. The registration requirement is 15 days after they become a lobbyist or get retained. The other deadlines are for reporting, reporting their lobbying activities.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Then we get back to what I was saying. Is there an area in the calendar then where their deadline is January 15 and the other deadlines I mentioned were reporting deadlines. When do they become a registered lobbyist in Nassau County?

The reason I'm asking this is because you know as well as I know that our Charter for the

County needs total revision, just because of a lack of clarity. I was reading it feeling that I was trying to get to what the bottom line was. I felt -- I could be totally wrong. I just felt in my mind it left a few months there of not having someone, a lobbyist actually filling out the forms.

MS. LOCONSOLO: No. I don't think that's correct. When you read Section 1111(2) it's clear that if they're hired, designated or employed as a lobbyist before December 31 then they have a particular deadline of January 15. Thereafter, if they're hired it states that within 15 days of having been designated, employed or hired as a lobbyist they must register. The next section has to do with regular periodic reporting required by the registered lobbyist.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Let me ask you the question about monitoring that. What kind of ongoing monitoring is going to take place for compliance of reporting? Do we have someone set aside, two people or three people set aside for that?

MS. LOCONSOLO: This basically falls upon the county attorney's office. Any of their filings must be submitted with the county attorney, and the county attorney's office is then required to ensure that that -- bear with me one second -- ensure that -- it goes on to the website. I'm sorry. I'm thinking of the contractor form, which the county attorney has to provide a copy to the Clerk of the Legislature and IT.

What happens with this is the county attorney's office reviews the form for completeness, it is then sent to IT, which has created a website that is accessible to the public and to each of the legislators.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: All right. The last thing that I came up with in my perusal of this is what if a lobbyist doesn't lobby us personally? What if he speaks to Mr. X and Mr. X reaches out to a legislator and gives advice to this legislator? Under this statute do we have a catchall for that? Does a person have to -- does a department have to say that this person came to them? Is there anything in this law that



indicates that?

MS. LOCONSOLO: This law is specifically to ensure that everyone who is involved in the contract or legislative process has full disclosure on the utilization of lobbyists by both the individual who has hired the lobbyist and the lobbyist, him or herself. If you look at the lobbyist legislation disclosure form, the lobbyist is required to identify every person, organization, or government entity before whom the lobbyist went to or spoke with. That's equally covered by the vendor disclosure form as well. If an individual is speaking to a legislator not as a lobbyist, then that individual would not fall under this.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: But would that individual, who might be talking to the head of a department, what happens to him? And he's only talking to them not as a lobbyist but has been in touch with a lobbyist.

MS. LOCONSOLO: The definition of lobbyist is extremely broad in this particular item. The title lobbyist is not what's controlling. If an individual speaks to a

legislator whether or not they spoke to a lobbyist before and that conversation falls within the definition of lobbying, which is on page four of the actual disclosure form, that individual better have registered as a lobbyist.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: So it would be up to the person they're speaking to to report that they've spoken to someone who has asked them to take into consideration -- I'm not saying anything bad here. I'm just saying if someone is coming up on something in a roadway or whatever and says I would suggest that this is something you look at because it's important, the whole normal thing. Then it shouldn't really be just a real conversation. We're not going to catch -- there are going to be holes in the net, I feel, in the safety net.

MS. LOCONSOLO: I think that the example that you are giving could easily be a constituent who contacts a legislator because of some concern they have with the roadway or with some work that's being done in their particular neighborhood. The point that I'm trying to make is that the definition, the individual who is

actually trying to promote something or influence something does not have to wear the title lobbyist, and it's very clear in here. If an individual contacts a legislator, a head of a department, a member of the administration for the purpose of influencing or promoting a matter and does so in a manner as described in the definition of lobbying activities, they're required to register.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: But it is broad. I still feel that because it's not tied together cleanly that that could slip through the cracks. I don't know if someone would necessarily -- I'm not talking about an individual talking about the weather or something like that. I'm talking about contracts coming before us and someone coming to speak to someone about a contract even if they're not a registered lobbyist, just coming to speak about a contract.

MS. LOCONSOLO: Again, that could be a constituent, couldn't it? If somebody is acting on behalf of somebody who is a registered lobbyist in the state, then that individual is acting like a lobbyist under this law and they

have to register.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: But a constituent never acts as a lobbyist for anything. A constituent doesn't speak for the vendor, that's what I'm saying.

MS. LOCONSOLO: No. And I'm not trying to say constituents are lobbyists. What I'm saying is that you're giving examples, with all due respect, which could be somebody who is just a concerned constituent. If you're speaking about a lobbyist, who is a registered lobbyist, for example, in New York State, who then speaks to an individual here, to lobby under the definition in this bill to influence or promote something, then that individual has to register as a lobbyist under our law. And the contractor who hired that original lobbyist better have that listed on his form because that's required on that form too.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Okay. Back up one second. Let's say I'm a lobbyist. I speak to John Smith, and John Smith -- he's my friend -- and I'd like him to just speak to someone about the upcoming contract. Now, does John Smith know

he has to register?

MR. LOCONSOLO: If what the individual is doing is acting as a lobbyist, as a secondary lobbyist, and the conversation he's having with whomever, a legislator or a member of the administration, and that activity is covered under the definition, yes, they would have to. It's my understanding that the county executive's executive orders which contain these definitions, which contain these forms are already on the county's website. And, of course, once this law is passed, should it be passed, that's going to be on the county's website as well.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I appreciate it. I guess we can disagree. I just feel that there are dangling participles here.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: To just clarify, let's say there is a contract before Rules and we're given the contract or the item, how is that going to list -- what are you going to do, you're going to list if there are any lobbyists connected to that or we have to go look

in the book? How does that work?

MS. LOCONSOLO: No. What happens is under the current -- it starts with Executive Order 1-2015 and Executive Order 1-A-2015. That requires that the county attorney's office ensure in purchasing that every bid document that's going out, every RFP, every request for expressions of interest include in it the form for the vendor and the form for the lobbyist -- no, I'm sorry -- the form for the vendor. When something it put out to bid, the individuals who are going to be submitting bids have that document, they are required to fill it out. As the submissions come in, that form is in there. Now, the vendor form also requires them to disclose the lobbyist and the lobbyist has to fill out a form. So the individual who is submitting the bid is responsible for including those documents in their bid.

By the time an award is made, that form has been checked and the entire package has been checked by the county attorney's office, by the contracting agency, by the comptroller's office, by the Office of the County Executive. When it

comes to the legislature, those forms are in there; no, you do not have to go look for them. If a lobbyist is listed on the vendor's form it's incumbent upon the county attorney's office, the contracting agency to ensure that if a lobbyist is listed there, the lobbyist is registered and that form is attached to the documents that come before the legislature, and that go to NIFA.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: So each contractor is going to have the list, if there are any lobbyists, along with a copy of their registration?

MS. LOCONSOLO: It will include whether or not there is a lobbyist. If there is a lobbyist, the lobbyist registration is going to be on the website.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: So you're not going to give us a copy of their registration with the contract if they're listed as a lobbyist?

MS. LOCONSOLO: If they're listed as a lobbyist you will be able to obtain that on the county website.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Why

wouldn't you give us -- like, we're depending on other people to make sure they're listed on the website. Sometimes things come as an emergency and we have no time. Why not include that in the backup?

MS. LOCONSOLO: That would be incumbent upon all of the agencies I just stated - the county attorneys --

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Right. But That's already the way it is. It should be in the law that we have a copy of it, especially if it's an emergency. We should have to have the name of the lobbyist, along with a copy of their registration in every backup for every contract.

MS. LOCONSOLO: You will have the name of the lobbyist if there is one on the contractor's disclosure form.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: So what you're telling us is if we get an emergency, as you've seen they've been handed out as rules is coming, you know, being called, we're expected to be able to find the lobbyist and then look up their qualifications and see if there are any conflicts?



I really think it has to be, at minimum, included in the backup.

MS. LOCONSOLO: My understanding is even as contracts that are filed as emergencies have the contractor disclosure form. So you will know the lobbyist name if there is one.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: And their registration form?

MS. LOCONSOLO: That would not be attached necessarily, no.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: If the comptroller's office and the attorney's office, why wouldn't they attach that as backup?

MS. LOCONSOLO: As a legislator you absolutely have a right to request that, but you also have access to the county website.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: So we would have to take a recess and go look it up on the website. This is how mistakes happen.

We all saw how that one contract got passed. In emergency situations, you see how much we have to deal with. I can't see how this could possibly -- it wouldn't slow down your process. You're going to go check the

information anyway, so why wouldn't you -- no offense. We're at the point where we don't trust. For us to have to stop and look up on your website, that's ridiculous, to be honest. It's not feasible.

If you're going to say that this is a lobbyist and they are registered, we need to see that.

MS. LOCONSOLO: And you have every right to check the website.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: It should be printed in the backup. There is absolutely no reason for it -- everything that we need to vote on should be in the backup, and that's the whole problem with this process, is that it's not. For you to say to us we'll give you some of the information and then you have to go online -- which, by the way, the service here is awful. Like, how are we supposed to make sure in that sometime a couple minute time period that we're not only -- that not only are we going to go through the packet and identify the lobbyist that you're saying is there but then have the time to look up each one of them. Basically, sometimes

you have to look through it and make sure that it's okay. So I really think that, at minimum, you have to provide if there is a lobbyist and a copy of their registration.

MS. LOCONSOLO: If there is a lobbyist, as I've said a number of times, will already be on the contractor disclosure form.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Correct. I understand that.

MS. LOCONSOLO: They're required to do that.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: But where is the registration, a copy of their registration?

MS. LOCONSOLO: The copy of the registration is going to be in electronic form --

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Which I'm just repeating, is totally not possible --

MS. LOCONSOLO: If I could just finish my statement. It's open to the public, and it's open to every single one of the legislators.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: So we have to go online to do the backup before -- that is totally cumbersome.

How many contracts are we supposed to do that for in a day, if we have to? It's completely -- I think it's completely backwards.

I'm done.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I think what we're trying to say is to make sense, a lobbying bill, that is exactly the type of thing that I was talking about but Delia said it a little clearer than I did, for sure. The fact of the matter is everything should be in black and white before us. If you have it in your bill then the different departments would be aware that this is what has to be there. Right now we get backup on the principals of a company. We never did originally. All these things are important because we're not here 24/7 during the week.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm going to object for a minute. We have staff, Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton, that reviews the contracts, looks at the disclosure forms and I'm sure that you do too. I'm not talking about your aids. I'm talking about your central staff.

I will tell you this. If there is any questions as to the information on that

disclosure form, we ask those questions and if we don't get those answers, we don't put the contract through.

Now, as far as the lobbyist is concerned, many of the contracts do not have listed lobbyists. Maybe they could possibly be state lobbyists and we would have to go to the state registration list to find out who those lobbyists are; correct?

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: What if there is an emergency --

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Hold on. I would like to hear from Ms. Loconsolo.

MS. LOCONSOLO: The requirement in this law is if they are registered with this state as a lobbyist that documentation must be presented to the county attorney's office, that documentation, in turn, goes on to the website. But if I may also point something else out.

While you're speaking about attaching these forms, the lobbyist registration forms to the contracts, you are mistaken in the belief that this lobbying law only applies to that, it does not. It applies to attempting to influence

or promote legislation, influence or promote OSPAC, the Planning Commission, etcetera, etcetera. And that's why it's very important that the lobbying registration information be on a website that's open to the legislators and to the public.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: It absolutely should be. I'm not saying that it shouldn't be. This isn't even turned on. If it had to get something off the web right now -- Norma, no offense. We do our backup as well. But let's say that it's Sandy and let's say -- like what happened in that one contract that we're all upset about. Those are emergencies. When we have an emergency handed to us Rules literally has moments to skim through it. To ask us to go online to try to find the right -- make sure it's the right lobbyist, that's a complete, like, I think it's a debacle. You're going to ask us to have problems.

If you have the information anyway, I can't see how it can't be provided in the backup.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay. I'm going to ask Minority Leader Kevan Abrahams, okay.

Let's go, Legislator Solages.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you very much, Presiding Officer. Thank you very much for being here today.

I seem to be confused here. I feel that the burden or obligation of disclosure shouldn't just be on the lobbyist but also should be on the public official or the public employee.

Shouldn't we have an obligation by those persons? The vendor has a self interest here. Shouldn't that obligation be upon the public employee, the Department of Public Works employee and the public official?

MS. LOCONSOLO: Quite frankly, our bill, the bill that's before you today is more expansive than the State Law, the Suffolk County Law, and other like laws throughout this state on lobbying activities.

And no, the onus is properly placed upon both the contractor, to report that he's utilized the services of a lobbyist, and the individual who is supposed to register as a lobbyist under this law.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Frankly, I

disagree. Frankly, I disagree. The obligation should be also upon the public employee to do so here.

Your question really didn't answer -- your answer didn't answer my question. I asked you specifically, shouldn't the burden be upon the public employee or the public elected official.

MS. LOCONSOLO: To the extent that they are reviewing the contractor disclosure form and the lobbyist disclosure form, to that extent, there is a burden on the public employee. And I think that's an appropriately placed burden.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Therefore, we should have an amendment to this bill asking that the -- requiring that the public official or the public employee should have that disclosure obligation; isn't that true?

MS. LOCONSOLO: No. What I just stated is to the extent that we're required to review this documentation -- for example, if on the contractor registration form, the contractor disclosure form, it indicates there's a lobbyist, it's the duty to the public employee involved in



this to check on whether or not that lobbyist actually registered. If you didn't register, as you know, there are penalties, just as there are under state law and under other county-like laws.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Who reviews these forms?

MS. LOCONSOLO: There's multiple reviewers. It starts with the county attorney's office. The agency that's the contracting agency, because that's the agency negotiating the contract, it's their responsibility. It's reviewed by the comptroller's office, so they would have some responsibility there as well, and a representative from the county executive's office, whether it's a deputy county executive or counsel.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Does everyone who is contacted by the lobbyist, do they have an obligation under this current bill that you're describing? Is anyone who is contracted by the lobbyist, do they have an obligation to disclose their conversations?

MS. LOCONSOLO: This law is specifically

--

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Or review the form.

MS. LOCONSOLO: This law is specifically to ensure that contractors report if they have hired someone to do lobbying --

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: You're not answering my question. Specifically, is anyone who is contacted by the lobbyist, do they have an obligation, yes or no, do they have an obligation to disclose that they were contacted by the lobbyist?

MS. LOCONSOLO: In this specific law it does not state that, but there are --

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Okay. So basically what you're saying is that we have can have a repeat of the whole ABTEC situation under this bill.

MS. LOCONSOLO: First of all, I have to point out --

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: No, really. We're trying to prevent something from happening that happened here that is really a black eye to Nassau County. And you are describing a bill to me that is insufficient and you're not answering my questions. I ask you, respectfully, would

this bill prevent the situation that we saw with ABTEC and Adam Skellos?

MS. LOCONSOLO: Respectfully, first of all, you have to be mindful of that fact that all what is pending right now are allegations against Senator Skellos and his son. The allegation containing lobbying is against Adam Skellos for not having registered as a lobbyist. I read nothing in that complaint or nothing in the indictment that indicates that there was anything wrong with this county's procurement process and reporting process.

We decided, this administration, that having a lobbying law is a good idea. Although, on a regular basis, we've required contactor disclosure forms, we have now actually codified that and codified it so that it's consistent. So when asking me whether or not this would have resulted in knowledge or Adam Skellos' involvement if he were hired as a lobbyist by ABTEC, absolutely.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Minority Leader Kevan.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you, Madam

Presiding Officer. I'll try to be brief. I know there's a lot of extensive questioning, so I'm not going to be redundant.

I just have a couple of questions. I know Legislator Solages started to talk a little bit about the disclosure bill, in regards to what it would have done to protect the county. Obviously, in the case with the alleged allegations against Senator Skellos as well as his son, Adam Skellos.

I do have some questions in regards to would the disclosure bill do this versus do that. I'm sure -- I don't know if you're familiar with the disclosure bill that was filed by the legislative minority.

MS. LOCONSOLO: I did review it, yes.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Okay. Obviously, there are many contrasts and differences between the two bills. For some time before there were changes to this bill I viewed the county executive's bill more as a registry which had some documentation being acquired, where I truly felt, and this is no knock on the county executive's bill. I truly felt that our bill was

more tied into the disclosures of conversations, of meetings, of e-mails that were taking place during a period of time. Would that be your agreement or not? What do you think?

MS. LOCONSOLO: I had many thoughts about the minority's draft on that bill. Initially, just as in the federal government and state government, there is a separation of powers. Upon reviewing your proposal it was very clear to me that you would be usurping the authority of the county executive. In addition, it was not aimed at ensuring that contractors report their lobbyists and lobbying activities or that lobbyists report their own activities. It was designed really to make the procurement process extremely cumbersome.

This county has one of the most transparent procurement processes that I'm aware of. The legislature actually gets to review everything. We have laws under which public employees must conduct their business, when it comes to contracting, when it comes to any business and that includes the General Municipal Law, it includes the Public Officer's Law, it

includes the Conflict of Interest Law. Your bill was not aimed at identifying an individual as having been hired and used as a lobbyist at all. It went way beyond anything like that. It would actually call for someone to list whether or not they met with a public official from FEMA concerning funding for an emergency contract because of Super Storm Sandy. It would require the Department of Health to report every conversation they've had with anyone from the State Department of Health on any grant, because grants end up in contracts as well.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Where I'll leave it is I will respectfully disagree. I think our bill -- not to usurp any power from the county executive, but primarily it was focused on making sure that if there was any influence at all from any different angle, that this legislative body should know about it. That's really the direction of our bill.

But I do want to get into a couple of things in regards to whether the bill that's before us actually covers. If you can bear with me.

In regards to some of the disclosures going forward, if you could specify, as I go through a couple of areas, where the current bill actually provides that level of documentation. The first thing I will talk about is can you identify any individuals from outside the county who communicated with any county personnel regarding any particular contract? Where would that actually be?

MS. LOCONSOLO: I'm sorry. Are you referring to the bill that the minority had filed?

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No. No. I'm referring to your bill. If you can specify to me what required disclosure would take place, if any at all, in regards to any communication with county personnel regarding a particular contract.

MS. LOCONSOLO: The disclosure that's in the lobbyist disclosure and registration form.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yeah, that's in regards to the county executive's bill.

MS. LOCONSOLO: Yes.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yes. If you could identify for me, like I said before, if

individuals from outside the county communicate with county personnel regarding a contract, where exactly -- any individuals, doesn't have to be lobbyist, where exactly would that be -- where would that come from in the county executive's bill. Where would I find that?

MS. LOCONSOLO: I'm sorry. I think you are asking two different questions and that you're actually referring to a provision that it's what the minority filed. You just said --

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm asking -- let me -- maybe I'm not being clear. What I'm asking is, can you tell me where in your bill or where in the county executive's bill that if anybody from outside the county decides to communicate with county personnel regarding a contract that's before this legislature, could you tell me where in this bill, if it exists at all, it may not exist, but if it does exist I would like to know where in your bill that would be identified. Where can I identify that?

MS. LOCONSOLO: It would be identified only if that individual attempted to influence or promote the matter, and it would be identified in



Section 4 of the lobbyist registration form and  
Section 5 of the lobbyist registration form.

Again, that would be somebody who communicated  
with somebody in the county or any governmental  
entity for the purpose of influencing or  
promoting a matter.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But who makes a  
determination -- because to me that sounds to be  
subjective. Who makes the determination of  
attempt to influence or the phrase that you had  
used? Who makes that determination? That just  
seems like such a gray area.

MS. LOCONSOLO: I don't think it's very  
gray when you look at the definition of lobbying  
and what it means on page 4 of 4 of the form.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Would the vendor  
make that determination?

MS. LOCONSOLO: The vendor will notify  
who they have hired as a lobbyist. Again, the  
person doesn't have to have the title lobbyist.  
Lobbyist is clearly defined in the form itself.  
The first thing is that the vendor identifies the  
individual who is has utilized to attempt to  
promote or influence a matter in this County.

Then it's incumbent upon that individual to fill out the lobbyist registration form and register as a lobbyist and report his lobbying activity or his expected lobbying activity or his expected lobbying activity. If you read the form, it's not just lobbying activity that occurred, it's expected, and one of the reasons that is is because, as I stated before, the contractor disclosure form which includes notice of a lobbyist will be any bid document that gets published by the county.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: The one thing that we do have concerns about is obviously it appears that the vendor would determine whether they have to report it, whether or not that level of influence actually took place. We want all communications. It should be either the county attorney's office or this legislature that makes the determination whether or not that influence is rise to the level of concern. We should have all the communication that's taking place between any vendor and the county. It's not even FOILable. It doesn't exist. Nobody is keeping track of it, that's the problem. So I would love

to FOIL it. But if it doesn't exist and we're not keeping it, then how do I get it?

Legislator Jacobs is mentioning something that obviously happens quite a bit and it's not something that's happened since Mr. Mangano took office, it happened when Mr. Suozzi took office. We would get documentation late and we'd get documentation the day of, sometimes we don't even get the information until we're out here on the floor, so that does raise a problem.

Say, for example, where could you tell me in regards to the bid specifications, who prepared them for any particular contract? The reason why I mentioned the bid specifications is because obviously we want to make sure -- we don't want to hear about any type of bids that are being geared towards any particular vendor, which it's been alleged or it's been insinuated through many periodicals and news reports that the bid specifications for the ABTEC contract was geared for them. So is there any disclosure here that would tell us who actually writes the bid specifications and whether or not that individual has been contacted by any outside vendor or

2 lobbyist? Where would I find that in the county  
3 executive's bill?

4 MS. LOCONSOLO: It's not in this  
5 particular bill.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So basically, if  
7 somebody actually prepared bid specifications and  
8 was contacted by outside influences that wouldn't  
9 be captured in this bill?

10 MS. LOCONSOLO: Certainly, if somebody  
11 acting as a lobbyist on behalf of a --

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: What if they're  
13 not a lobbyist?

14 MS. LOCONSOLO: potential --

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: What if they're  
16 not a lobbyist? What if they're a sales rep?

17 MS. LOCONSOLO: There's a specific  
18 definition in here --

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Or an engineer.  
20 What if they're an engineer from a particular  
21 entity or a sales rep?

22 MS. LOCONSOLO: If they're acting as a  
23 lobbyist then that would be reported here.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I understand.

25 MS. LOCONSOLO: Because they have to

describe their activities. It seems to me --

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: That I understand. But what if they're acting as an engineer?

MS. LOCONSOLO: I'm not sure I understand your question.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Okay. Let me give you an example. Let me try again. My wife tells me too I'm not clear at times. Let me try this again.

If engineering firm A decides to reach out to county personnel A and tells county personnel A that there are certain things that would make your proposal stronger, is it proper, being that he's not a lobbyist, he's just basically somebody that's an expert in that field, sounds like he could be an engineer, is it possible that that person could be writing specifications that maybe he believes his company is best suited to answer or respond to. So the question becomes then shouldn't that -- shouldn't this legislature know who writes the specs for the bids as well as know basically if that person's been contacted by I guess company A.

MS. LOCONSOLO: That's a rather broad question. For example, as you well know as a legislator, there are consultants that the county hires and there are occasions where consultants will work with agencies and that's what they were hired to do, not because they are contracting form, etcetera. It's a very broad question that you're asking.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I have no problem with the county working with consultants. I should hope we do because we don't have the answers to everything. But we should be able to disclose it.

I don't have a problem with 99 percent of what you're talking about. I just have a problem when we don't disclose it. That's all I'm asking, is that we just reveal it to the entire public at the legislature.

MS. LOCONSOLO: The disclosure that this is going to allow for and the transparency and the county's current procurement practices, policies, and laws provide extensive disclosure, and this will provide more disclosure than this county has had under previous administration.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I don't doubt what you're saying in regards to there will be more disclosure than has been under previous administrations because we're starting from zero. That being said. If somebody gave this a grade of a 60, it's better than being at zero. It's still not enough.

This County, there are allegations that are out there that basically tie this county to millions and millions of dollars, which possibly could have went at the taxpayer expense. I would be thinking we would try to hit a home run and get it right. Granted, if there are some components about our bill that the administration is not satisfied with or doesn't agree with, let's work with it.

I couldn't see why getting more information is not a good thing. I would say the more information we could provide to the public so that they could have a better, and to us, but the public are the folks that actually pay the salaries here and pay for the taxes and do everything else. If there is more information that could be provided to them so that they could

have a comfort level that their county is doing the right thing by them, why wouldn't we do that? That's the part that, to me, is a little hazy.

I have one more thing, Madam Presiding Officer.

On page 11 of the lobbying disclosure document, item number 7, it starts out by list of all the lobbyists and then you go down a little bit further and it talks about the term lobbyist and it also says does not include any officer, director, trustee, employee, counsel or agent of the County of Nassau, the State of New York, when discharging his or her official duties. Are you familiar with that section?

MS. LOCONSOLO: Yes, I am.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I know you went into an extensive -- I know you went into a very back-and-forth debate with Legislator Solages as well as Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton in regards to Mr. Adam Skellos, in regards to his involvement would be captured under the current bill that's before us today. However, if you do read the alleged criminal complaint, there is commentary, I truly believe, between the county executive as



well as the majority leader, the alleged majority leader. So that being said.

One person could interpret in parts of that criminal complaint, which obviously is alleged against the majority leader and his son, one could honestly see that there was some lobbying for ABTEC Industries in that criminal complaint, which came from the, the complaint, from the majority leader of the alleged actions.

I ask the question, when I see it does not include state -- State of New York official, it wouldn't cover the lobbying or the one could say the pressure that was put upon the county executive to move forward with that particular agreement by the Senate Majority Leader.

MS. LOCONSOLO: This actually exempts anybody who is discharging their official duties, to the extent that there may be any allegation and any indictment or complaint that an official, a public official was not acting in his official capacity then that person is not exempt. This exempts anybody who is acting while discharging their official duties. So that would be you calling on behalf of your school district on a

tax bill or whatever to the state assembly person or senate who represents your district. That would be you not lobbying. That would be you doing your job on behalf of your constituents. This specifically exempts individuals who are carrying out their public duties, their official duties.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But you do see the gray area with that. When did the alleged incident, when did the line stop from being the majority leader to the actions that were taken place? Who defines that?

MS. LOCONSOLO: You're asking me questions based on your reading of allegations in a complaint and an indictment and insinuating that the complaint and the indictment alleged misconduct by this county. I don't read it this way.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Let me correct the record because that's not what I'm saying. What I'm saying is it obviously implies, as you can probably read, that the majority leader was pushing for, based off his alleged actions the majority leader was pushing for ABTEC Industries

to move forward. I have never insinuated anything about the county doing any wrongdoing. What I'm saying is you have a state official that basically, from the alleged actions and from the criminal complaint, you have a state official that is lobbying for a particular entity. So what I'm asking again, it looks like to me number 7 of this particular disclosure form excludes when a state official is lobbying on behalf of a particular contract which, in this case, he would not -- this would not be disclosed to the county, the actions that were taken place by the majority leader.

MS. LOCONSOLO: It's my understanding that lobbying is not authorized under the law for elected officials. I don't believe that if you were lobbying he would have been discharging his official duties.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm sorry. I didn't catch that part. I'm sorry. Could you repeat that?

MS. LOCONSOLO: You stated that the senate majority leader was lobbying and that this wouldn't capture that. I stated that it was my

understanding under the law that the elected officials are not authorized to lobby and, therefore, that would not constitute discharging his official duties.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We can go back and forth about the term lobbying. Obviously, from our reading of the criminal complaint, even though it may not be termed lobbying it clearly stated that the majority wanted to see that contract go forward. So how does that get represented, if at all? If it doesn't, then that's fair. We can understand that. We may not like it, but we can understand it. To me, those alleged conversations should have to have some place in this document. We know about the conversations. We know they happened. Now we just need to figure out how do we fix that to make sure it's disclosed going forward.

We're not talking about anything hypothetical. We want to make sure every component of what we've read is addressed. So how do we address that, if we can at all?

MS. LOCONSOLO: Again, you're speaking about allegations, an indictment, and a complaint

and I'm not even clear that the allegations concerning a specific conversation that the senate majority leader had with another public official is anything other than background for what they truly allege is the misconduct on his part as it relates to his son and payments to his son, again, by contractors. Again, those are all allegations.

But in what you're suggesting, both in what the minority filed and in a follow-up letter would require every one of the legislators here to keep a record of every conversation you have on behalf of your constituents for every problem that they have with, whether it's a member of the federal government, the state government, Suffolk County. We've all heard that expression, red tape, and that would even create even more red tape for the county as a whole and for the legislators.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Deputy Presiding Officer Nicolello.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: There have been a lot of questions. I just want to get back to what the core of what this bill does.

A lobbyist who is retained before December 31 must file a registration form by January 15. If they are retained during the course of the year, then within 15 days of their retention they have to file a registration.

MS. LOCONSOLO: That's correct.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Each lobbyist is required to make reports, periodic reports four times a year about their lobbying activity.

MS. LOCONSOLO: Correct.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: And an annual report to boot.

MS. LOCONSOLO: Yes.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: All of that information is going to be coming in.

This bill goes farther and has us require a vendor disclosure. So each contractor or vendor is going to have to disclose lobbying activity on their behalf.

MS. LOCONSOLO: That's correct.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Is there any other municipality that you're aware of that requires a vendor to disclose lobbying activity?

MS. LOCONSOLO: No.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Is it in the  
Suffolk County bill?

MS. LOCONSOLO: No.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So this bill,  
with this vendor provision, is stricter and more  
stringent than lobbying bills elsewhere in this  
state.

MS. LOCONSOLO: Oh, absolutely,  
including within the definition of lobbying  
activity.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Okay. I wanted  
to get to that. The vendor's form requires the  
vendor to describe lobbying activity that each  
lobbyist undertakes on their behalf.

MS. LOCONSOLO: Yes, it does.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So they have to  
describe what the lobbyist is doing for them.

MS. LOCONSOLO: Yes.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: And if you go to  
the next page, the term lobbying means or relates  
to any determination by any elected county  
official, officer, etcetera, with respect to the  
procurement of goods, services or construction,  
including the preparation of contract

specifications.

MS. LOCONSOLO: That's correct.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So it's written into the law and the disclosure form that the vendor has to disclose if there was lobbying as to contract specifications.

MS. LOCONSOLO: Absolutely.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Okay. I made my points. Basically, again, this law, as it's written, is stricter than other lobbying laws throughout the state. You have a check and a balance because the lobbyist is going to have to make these disclosures and the vendor is going to have to make a separate disclosure.

MS. LOCONSOLO: Yes.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: And if they don't, they are subject to criminal prosecution, are they not? Let me put it this way. What's the penalty for violating this law?

MS. LOCONSOLO: The penalties are set forth in the bill.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: It's a misdemeanor, up to a year or \$5,000. So if you had a lobbyist and vendor in cahoots and not



disclosing this, which is a possibility, then they would subject themselves to a criminal term and/or fine.

MS. LOCONSOLO: Yes, that's correct.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: But otherwise, if a vendor retains a lobbyist and they don't know whether the lobbyist is disclosing everything, they, themselves, have an obligation to do that.

MS. LOCONSOLO: Yes.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: And the vendor forms are going to come to us as part of the backup that we get.

MS. LOCONSOLO: Yes. Absolutely.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Okay. Thank you very much.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Would this bill cover Dean Skellos alleged involvement with ABTEC, yes or no? Would this bill cover his alleged activity with ABTEC?

MS. LOCONSOLO: If he was acting as a lobbyist on behalf of ABTEC or hired as a lobbyist on behalf of ABTEC, then that would have been required to be reported by ABTEC on the vendor disclosure, and he would have been

required to register as a lobbyist.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Does the bill cover employees who work in-house for a contractor, consultant, or vendor who lobbied on behalf of their employer?

MS. LOCONSOLO: There are certain exceptions to the definition of lobbyist. Just bear with me for one second.

It could include an employee. Our definition of lobbyist says any person or organization retained, employed, or designated.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I have one speaker on this item. Henry Boitel, Rockville Centre, Executive Leader, I believe, from the Democratic Party.

MR. BOITEL: I'm not here for the Democratic Party or for Rockville Centre.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay. You're here on your own.

MR. BOITEL: I'm here on my own, that's correct.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay. Good.

Welcome.

MR. BOITEL: It seems to me there are a few ironies with regard to this bill. First of all, as far as I could tell, this public hearing has been preceded by no publication of this proposed bill, so the public -- I don't know how many people out here have seen copies of this bill -- but the public has not. So I object to any determination today or any closing of this hearing without proper notification to the public of what it is you're talking about. Some of you don't seem, understandably, to understand some of the provisions that are in here, and the public has had no exposure to it. It should be up on your website, that's the place particularly for things relating to transparency that things ought to be published for the public and it's not happening.

Second. I have seen some of the contracts to which a form has been attached by the county executive's office relating to the definition of a lobbyist. I'm not sure whether that's the same as the one that's in this bill or not. But I can tell you, and you have seen it

for yourselves if you've looked at this documentation, that the definition of a lobbyist, as contained in the attachment, is a 438 word run-on sentence. No effort to try to lay it out for understanding. It's the kind of thing, let's slap it on there and that covers us. There ought be an effort to actually communicate. I don't get that from what the practice has been thus far.

There has been some discussion here about the obligation of public officials. It seems to me that it's not just the potential of a lobbying firm and a lobbyist in cahoots, I think that was the verbiage that was used; it's also a question of whether public officials are in cahoots with these people. That's a possibility. And cahoots does not necessarily mean that they want to do a bad thing or they're stealing. It's a question of in cahoots of not disclosing, which then becomes a bad thing under this bill.

So I suggest to you the following language, which I will hand up.

In proposing, supporting, voting upon any legislation or abstaining from voting upon any

legislation, a public official shall be deemed to certify that he or she has disclosed any and all lobbying activity of which he or she is aware that is not already a matter of record with regard to the specific legislation that is proposed, supported, or voted upon.

It seems to me that's a pretty concise way of setting forth what, in this instance, for example, your obligations would be if you had been contacted or were aware of any activity. There isn't anything that I've heard about in this bill that affirmatively places an obligation upon you people, or upon the county executive, or upon a department head to disclose anything. All the obligation seems to be, upon the lobbyist and their principals.

CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes have expired, Mr. Boitel.

MR. BOITEL: So that's one amendment I would suggest to your bill.

If you're going to continue -- hopefully you will continue this hearing at a later date, after it's been adequately publicized.

The second has to do with, what I

consider to be, a serious problem. Legislators frequently start doing tradeoffs in the back room. You vote for this, and I'll vote for that. You vote against this, and I'll vote for that. So my suggestion is another amendment.

The term lobbying shall also mean a non-public proposal that any legislator will support or oppose any item of legislation in exchange for another legislator supporting or opposing any item of legislation --

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Boitel, would you do me a favor?

MR. BOITEL: whether or not the items of legislation are related to each other.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Boitel, wrap it up, please, and submit your recommendations to the clerk. Thank you. That's it. Time is up. He told you that.

MR. BOITEL: I hear my time is up. I'm just hoping that some of you will at least initiate some discussion on things such as this.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm not going to debate this with you.

MR. BOITEL: I know you want to get me

off quick. I understand that. You've made your point.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: No, that's not it. I don't want to entertain your ideas.

MR. BOITEL: And I'll get off quick. And I will provide the information. But I wish you would have some substantive discussion instead of one side trying to make their points, the other side trying, and no real discussion aimed at the kind of transparency that this is supposed to provide. Otherwise, it just becomes a cover because somebody has been indicted, which is absurd.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Motion to close the hearing?

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So moved.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Motion was made by Legislator Kopel, seconded by Legislator Dunne.

All those in favor of closing the hearing signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The hearing is now closed.

Now for the item. The item is Item  
Number 5, a local law to amend the County Charter  
in relation to the registration of lobbyists.

Motion, please?

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Kopel.

Any other comments regarding this?

(No verbal response.)

I think we talked it to death.

I'm going to ask you to keep it brief. I  
think we talked this item to death.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I don't have any  
questions, just a statement.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Read your  
statement.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I don't need to  
read it, but thank you.

I just wanted to say for the record that  
the legislative minority planned to vote in the  
affirmative for this bill. That said, we truly



believe that this bill could have been much, much stronger. But, as I said before in some of the debate and discussion, when you're starting from zero - granted, this bill may be better than Suffolk and 90 percent of what New York State does, but obviously we truly believe that it's not enough. Though it may be better than most, it still would not capture all of what happened in the alleged incidents regarding Majority Leader Skellos, as well as his son, Adam Skellos. From that standpoint, we would have liked to have seen some of the disclosure that our bill had talked about in regard to communication, e-mails with county officials as well as with vendors or lobbyists.

As I said before, we planned to vote in the affirmative not because we believe the administration's bill is good or great or whatever. We planned to vote for the bill because it's better than what we have now.

Thank you.

Which is nothing, by the way.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: What we have is nothing. Okay. Not that this is nothing.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No. No.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I just want to say something.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: The bill is better than what we have now, which is nothing; not that the bill is nothing.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: And nothing is ever perfect, otherwise we wouldn't be here.

I will say this to you.

Over the past several weeks, we've been debating this issue for, I would say, on a daily basis. It's really, really something that we thought was necessary, in light of the things that were happening and in light of the fact that if we could avoid some of the problems that exist elsewhere in this state, we were obligated to do that.

But I will tell you that the laws in Nassau County, including the law we passed today, provides our residents with the most comprehensive -- and I have to say this, Ms. Loconsolo, you certainly gave a very comprehensive description of the legislation, and not only is it comprehensive, but it is a

transparent contracts process in the entire State of New York. I will tell you that I don't believe there is another municipality in the State of New York that has the -- can hold up a candle to this legislation, in light of its comprehensiveness and its transparency. We are headed in the right direction.

I thank you for your patience, standing there for so long. And I thank you, Mr. Boitel, for your comments and anybody else who had comments regarding this particular legislation.

Now, what we have to do is go to the law itself. Since there has been so many comments regarding this legislation, I'm going to ask that Item 5, a local law to amend the County Charter in relationship to the registration of lobbyists -- I'm sorry.

Legislator Dunne, I believe made the motion, and seconded by Legislator Kopel.

All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The item passes unanimously.

We're headed in the right direction. We are.

I don't know if there are any other speakers who put in a slip on any other items that were not called and would like to speak.

Okay, Dominica. You got your three minutes. Let's go.

MS. CALIFANO: Hi. I'm Dominica Califano. I just want to get this on record. I've been coming up here for over a year and a half. Mr. Abrahams, I'm going to ask you because I don't seem like I'm getting help from anywhere else. Could I ask you, VIP Splash, Operation Splash had contracts, correct? They got paid in less than a year and a half, of \$12 million. Twelve million in less than a year. Is their contract still open for five years? Do they have a five-year contract that they were paid fully in a year?

Also, the other thing that I'm having a very difficult time, that I spoke with the county attorney's office, it's been going on for over a year. We put in FOIL requests. They're starting with word games, that we're not putting the

proper word in to get it. We're trying to get a copy of the four bids that were done before VIP Splash, Operation Splash were accepted by the county. Is there any possible way that you can help us get those four bids?

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Dominica, I was under the impression -- and I was just commenting to Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton, that I thought you were getting a lot of information. I thought she provided a lot of information to you.

I have no problem working with in conjunction with you to get you more information. That's not a problem.

MS. CALIFANO: I'm having a difficult time to get some information. We have asked her. We have asked other people. Unfortunately, David Denenberg isn't here. He's the one that gave us most of the information. For whatever reason, it was very easy to get from him. But I've been coming up here for over a year.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You have. You have. I definitely recognize that.

Let's try this. Let's try this. I'm sure you're familiar with the lady to my left.

MS. CALIFANO: We left messages for her also at the beginning and we got no copies of anything.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Between Michelle, Cecelia Capers, as well as Pete Kleins, we believe we have given you everything that we have access to. Some of the stuff that you may be asking for we probably do not have access to. We have to FOIL, which you could FOIL too --

MS. CALIFANO: I did FOIL request a lot of the paperwork. Now they're saying that I'm not putting the proper wording in, the county attorney's office.

This is over a year. I think I'm pretty much clear that I'm asking for four bids that were performed before VIP Operation Splash received.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Let's figure out, so that we can get the proper wording, so you can get the information that you need.

Let him see if he can help you. Obviously, you have the number to my office.

MS. CALIFANO: I'll get it. Someone -- I don't have your number.

2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I have to go that  
3 way out anyway.

4 MS. CALIFANO: Perfect.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Jerry Podlesak,  
6 can you come up for a second and see if we can  
7 hammer this out?

8 MR. PODLESAK: What can I do for you,  
9 sir?

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Hi, Jerry. How  
11 are you?

12 MR. PODLESAK: I'm good. How about  
13 yourself?

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Good. Good.

15 I'm sure you've heard what was going back  
16 and forth.

17 MS. CALIFANO: I spoke to him after the  
18 last meeting.

19 MR. PODLESAK: I spoke to her after the  
20 committee meeting.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Can we get her  
22 the documentation that she is seeking?

23 MR. PODLESAK: I haven't seen anything,  
24 a written request come across my desk. I advised  
25 her who to send it to and what specific language

2 would be helpful in order to get it. But it was  
3 not directed to me. I do not have this  
4 information. It really does have to go to the  
5 correct department.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Okay. Let's do  
7 it this way. If we could do it this way --

8 MS. CALIFANO: I had several e-mails  
9 back and forth.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Okay.

11 MR. PODLESACK: Not with me. Whoever you  
12 did.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Let's try it  
14 again. This time, if we can get my counsel  
15 involved, Pete Kleins, and Pete could probably  
16 even work with Dominica to get the proper  
17 verbiage so we can get it done in one shot.

18 MR. PODLESACK: That's fine with me. Mr.  
19 Kleins and I have a good relationship working.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Does it need to  
21 be FOILED for you to provide the documentation to  
22 her?

23 MR. PODLESACK: Any kind of written  
24 request is a FOIL request.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So then it's



going to fall under the same Freedom of Information Act.

MR. PODLESAK: Absolutely.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So let's involve Mr. Kleins going forward. From that standpoint, we'll see where we end up once we get the documentation. Peter, please keep me abreast of what's going on. We'll try it that way.

MR. PODLESAK: That's fine by me, sir.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Not a problem.  
Thank you.

MS. CALIFANO: Thank you.

There's only one other question I want to ask. I was just seeing this, a CDBG grant to the Village of Island Park for 200,000. Could someone explain what that is? They never make it clear to the Village of Island Park who is getting money and who is not. I just noticed this here. Could someone answer that? What is a CDBG for 200,000?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Dominica, we will get back to you with that. Connie, would you get her that information, please?

MS. CALIFANO: Excuse me?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Connie will get you that information.

MS. CALIFANO: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Just give her the community block grant number.

MS. CALIFANO: Is that what that is?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: That's what that is, community development block grant.

MS. CALIFANO: And what was that, that the Village of Island Park applied for it?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Give it to Connie and she'll tell you. She will explain it to you.

MS. CALIFANO: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: She'll get you the information.

MS. CALIFANO: Thanks.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Budnick, do you have another comment for us? Are you going to end the day?

MR. BUDNICK: I promise you it will be incredibly short.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay.

MR. BUDNICK: I have been contacted by a number of people in the Wantagh south shore area.

I used to be the dock master, of course 40 years ago. I was the dock master building at Wantagh County Park. It still sits, laid waste to, by Super Storm Sandy. And I have been contacted by people yelling at me, why isn't it fixed up? I leave those issues to you.

My commendations to each and every one of you for putting up with everybody. May the good Lord bless you one and all.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay. Motion to adjourn?

LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by Legislator MacKenzie, seconded by Legislator Schaefer.

All those in favor of adjourning signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

Okay. We are adjourned.

(Whereupon, the Full Legislature

1 Full Legislature - 6-15-15  
2 adjourned at 5:02 p.m.)  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, FRANK GRAY, a Shorthand Reporter and  
Notary Public in and for the State of New York,  
do hereby state:

THAT I attended at the time and place above  
mentioned and took stenographic record of the  
proceedings in the above-entitled matter;

THAT the foregoing transcript is a true and  
accurate transcript of the same and the whole  
thereof, according to the best of my ability and  
belief.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my  
hand this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

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FRANK GRAY